

**Question for written answer E-001729/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Tagging of human rights defenders as terrorists in the Philippines, including UN Special Rapporteur Victoria Tauli-Corpuz

Last month, the Government of the Philippines filed a legal petition seeking the declaration of a number of organisations, associations and persons as terrorists and outlaws, pursuant to the National Security Act of 2007. The list includes the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, who was listed as a member of an alleged communist guerrilla group, as well as Mrs Joan Carling (co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Majors Group for Sustainable Development) and several other indigenous human rights defenders from across the country.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz spoke out last December against some of President Duterte's policies, namely the forced displacement and killings of indigenous peoples in the south of the country. The tagging of these activists as terrorists poses a serious risk to their security. In 2017, the Philippines was the most dangerous country in Asia for environmental defenders, with a record of 41 murders.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to raise concerns about this situation at international level, to express its resounding reproach of these baseless terrorism allegations, and to call on to the Philippine Government to ensure the physical safety of the persons listed in the petition?