

**Question for written answer E-003079/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Local election candidates killed in Mexico

On 3 June, the wave of violence plaguing Mexico claimed the lives of two more local election candidates. Juana Irais Maldonado, a parliamentary candidate for the State of Puebla, and Pamela Terán, a council candidate for the municipality of Juchitán (Oaxaca), were shot dead whilst campaigning for the elections. The rule of law in Mexico has suffered since the onset of an insupportable process of erosion caused by alarming levels of violence attributable to not only criminal organisations, but to local authorities and corrupt forces of law and order too. These killings have specifically targeted human rights campaigners, journalists and election candidates. The Organisation of American States reported in April 2017, that an electoral candidate is killed in Mexico every four or five days. Unlike other countries in the same region chastised by endemic violence, Mexico does not fit the profile of a 'failed State', as it is a member of the G20. This is why the extent of violence in this country is particularly unacceptable.

How does the EU intend to put pressure on the Mexican authorities, and help them to restrain this wave of killings that not only threatens the lives of those targeted, but jeopardises the normal functioning of democracy too?