

**Question for written answer E-003080/2018  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Francisco Assis (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Killing of land rights' activists in Guatemala

On 1 June, Ramón Choc Sacrab, a member of the Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA) and a leading figure in the indigenous community of Ixloc de San Pedrito (Cobán, Alta Verapaz), died after being brutally stabbed the previous day. Ramón and his family had been the target of threats for some time, within the context of his activism to uphold human rights and the right of local communities to land. This is the fourth Guatemalan activist that has been killed in recent weeks, following the murders of Luis Marroquín, José Can Xol and Mateo Chamán Pauu (the last two were also members of the CCDA). According to statistics from NGO Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala, in 2017 there were 483 attacks on defenders of human rights, 53 of whom were killed.-

Given the gravity of the situation, how does the EU intend to contribute to making sure that Guatemala puts a stop to the inaction of the authorities responsible for investigating and enforcing justice, which has been held back by legislative initiatives recently put forward or approved that aim to criminalise the activities of NGOs and aggravate the climate of insecurity in which they operate?