

**Question for written answer E-003864/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
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Subject: VP/HR - Response to violent crackdowns and human rights violations in Nicaragua

Last weekend alone, nearly 20 people died in Nicaragua in violent crackdowns by state police and para-police forces. This violence has caused more than 320 deaths since the protests against Daniel Ortega's government began three months ago.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have declared the government to be responsible for serious human rights violations.

Meanwhile, Mr Ortega refuses to call elections or to propose any other solution than repression in response to the demonstrators' legitimate demands. The US Government has just adopted sanctions against Nicaraguan officials implicated in human rights violations.

In view of these facts, and given the European Parliament resolution of 31 May calling on the Union to take measures if necessary:

1. Can the VP/HR say whether the situation in Nicaragua will be on the agenda of the next Foreign Affairs Council meeting?
2. How likely does the VP/HR think it is that sanctions will be taken given the worsening situation?
3. Will the VP/HR push within the Council for the adoption of restrictive measures against Nicaraguan officials implicated in human rights violations?