

Question for written answer E-004814/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Trial of Berta Cáceres' suspected murderers

The cowardly murder in 2016 of Berta Cáceres, the charismatic indigenous rights defender who opposed the construction of a hydroelectric dam, was a great blow to the Honduran activist community committed to the cause. It moved all of those around the world who uphold respect for human rights. Although the President of Honduras described the crime as 'an attack on the country' at the time, this did not prevent Berta Cáceres' daughter, Bertha Zúñiga Cáceres, from being the target of two assassination attempts in July 2017, along with two other members of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (the NGO that she runs). Not only that, the trial of the eight people accused of Berta's murder only began on 17 July 2018. A report produced by independent lawyers refers to signs that business and government figures were involved in the crime, raising concerns about the impartiality of the trial. These facts cast serious doubts on whether the Honduran executive is really committed to protecting activists, in view of the fact that more than 100 have been murdered since 2010.

How does the EU intend to work with the Honduran authorities to fight for an independent trial and to create mechanisms that enable activists to be properly protected?