

**Question for written answer E-005690/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Attacks on journalists and the press in Nicaragua

According to the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation, over the last six months more than 420 assaults, acts of censorship and threats against Nicaraguan journalists and press organisations have been recorded in Nicaragua. This includes the murder of journalist Ángel Gahona, who was shot in the head while covering a protest calling for the removal of President Daniel Ortega. Since protests against the current President of Nicaragua began on 18 April 2018, the Foundation has identified 77 assaults, 71 acts of intimidation, 64 acts of censorship, 62 threats, 33 cases of defamation and 26 verbal attacks. Most of these acts were carried out by the police and paramilitary forces or by members of the ruling party, the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

What action will the European Union take to improve the safety of journalists in Nicaragua and to ensure that the freedom to inform is not restrained by attacks on the physical integrity of such professionals and constant threats to their work?