

**Question for written answer P-004719/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Attempted murder of three human rights defenders in Honduras

On 2 July 2017, the general coordinator of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organisations of Honduras (COPINH), Bertha Zúñiga Cáceres, together with fellow members of the COPINH, Sotero Chavarría and Asunción Martínez, were the targets of two murder attempts in the Santiago Puringle municipality. Bertha Zúñiga Cáceres is the daughter of iconic indigenous leader and activist Berta Cáceres, who was assassinated on 2 March 2016. These attacks seem to be linked to a hydroelectric project that would effectively restrict access to a source supplying water to the San Antonio, Cancire, Higuito and Cedrito communities. These actions are part of a systematic campaign of attacks, some of them fatal, against human rights defenders in Honduras and specifically against COPINH members to try to stop them reporting violations of the rights of local communities. Even though the murder attempt failed this time, the lives of these three COPINH members, as well as other Honduran activists, are still in danger. Given the gravity of this situation, how does the EU intend to put pressure on the Honduran authorities to adopt the measures necessary to ensure the protection and physical safety of COPINH members and all other human rights defenders in Honduras?