

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0613/07

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to the Commission

Subject: Violence in Oaxaca, Mexico

The International Civil Commission for Human Rights Observation (CCIODH) has just returned from its 5th visit to the Mexican state of Oaxaca, in which there are worrying demonstrations of violence and social instability. In its report the organisation states that throughout its visit it ascertained that those detained during the conflict are subjected to physical and psychological torture. It learnt that 23 people had died in the conflict and that no investigations have been held. It ascertained that victims are afraid to report what happened - more than 100 people are currently in hiding because of threats. Defenders of human rights in the region suffer harassment. There is documented evidence of widespread verbal, physical and sexual abuse of women. There are also reports of minors being arbitrarily detained during the Federal Police's preventive operations.

The CCIODH points out that Oaxaca is not living in a state of normality and warns that the conflict may resume, since there has not been an adequate response to the underlying causes of the conflict.

In view of all this and the existence of the democratic clause in the Association Agreement between Mexico and the European Union, can the Commission say:

- whether it intends to raise these issues in the context of its relations with the Mexican authorities;
- whether it intends to recommend practical measures to help to clarify what happened;
- what kind of measures these would be;
- what steps it will take to assist the reestablishment of dialogue between the Government and society in Oaxaca;
- how it intends to contribute to international human rights observation in Oaxaca;
- how it intends to back the various international organisations, such as the UN High Commissioner in Mexico, in the context of the current situation in Oaxaca?