

**Question for written answer E-003389/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - IAHRC ruling on the ousting of Gustavo Petro

On 19 March, the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, made some controversial statements to the effect that his government 'does not accept the injunction' filed the previous night by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission regarding the ousting of the Mayor of Bogotá, Gustavo Petro.

Echoing the statements from Mr. Santos, the Colombian Foreign Minister María Ángela Holguín described the Commission's ruling as 'interference'. This demonstrates once again that the government of Juan Manuel Santos has no respect for human rights and international institutions such as the IAHRC that attempt to monitor compliance. The Colombian Government's attitude and failure to assert its commitment to human rights cast doubt on the existence of the rule of law in that country and the democratic quality of its institutions.

Colombia is therefore in the hands of a government which, as many sections of civil society have complained, does not respect human rights. Gustavo Petro himself, following the statements from Mr. Santos, declared 'there's no point voting in Colombia', as he was ousted following his electoral victory with no guarantee whatsoever that he would be able to return to political life.

1. Is the Vice President/High Representative aware of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission ruling?
2. What is her assessment of the statements from Mr. Santos and Ms. Holguín? Does she think Colombia is respecting minimum democratic safeguards and human rights in the country?
3. Does she plan to urge Colombia to heed the IAHRC ruling on the dismissal of Gustavo Petro?
4. Is she considering freezing the ratification process for the EU Colombia-Peru free trade agreement until Mr Santos's government heeds the IAHRC ruling and demonstrates that Colombia is a state where fundamental democratic safeguards exist?