

**Question for written answer E-004532/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

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Subject: VP/HR - Human rights in Mexico

On Thursday 20 March, Mexico was to announce to members of the Human Rights Council which of the 176 recommendations made by these States it would adopt to resolve the catastrophic human rights situation in the country. Sustainable and effective measures are certainly required to combat the forced disappearances, acts of torture and arbitrary detentions, all of which are well-established practices, and the increasingly regular attacks against journalists, migrants, and men and women who are defending human rights.

However, Amnesty International fears that the Mexican authorities are once again failing to adhere to the commitments they made to the international community.

Indeed, in 2009, the last time that Mexico appeared before this body, it declared that it would implement most of the recommendations. Yet, it must be said that it has overlooked numerous issues since, thus failing to prevent the human rights crisis that we are still witnessing today.

Moreover, even though the Mexican Government's announcement on 19 March that it would accept the majority of the recommendations is good news, Amnesty International questioned certain warning signs and fears that Mexico will maintain the status quo and that its words will not be followed by actions.

For example, the recommendations on the abolition of *arraigo*, a form of detention that violates a number of human rights, namely torture and forced confessions, have been rejected. This type of prolonged temporary detention is used to incarcerate a subject for up to 80 days without appearing before a judge.

Another major cause for concern is the fact that last week the Senate examined a proposed reform that would exclude human rights violations committed by members of the military against civilians from the list of offences that military tribunals are authorised to rule on.

1. Although Mexico is moving in the right direction, there is still a lot of effort to be made. How could the European Union take action to compel Mexico to stick to its international commitments?
2. It is vital for Mexico to go further in its approach to human rights violations. Does the Vice-President/High Representative intend to engage in talks with the Mexican authorities in order to find solutions to this problem that still plagues us?