

**Question for written answer E-004679/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 117
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Impunity and intimidation in the latest general strike in Paraguay

On 26 March 2014 a major general strike took place in Paraguay, supported by the Latin American country's main trade union and peasant forces. Participants in the strike denounced the intimidatory measures the government of Paraguay is taking, with total impunity, against union and opposition forces.

On 17 March the government of Horacio Cartes placed the army on 'operational alert' in relation to the prospect of a general strike, in a clear attempt to intimidate the parties supporting the strike. The government of Paraguay must guarantee its citizens' right to strike instead of trying to intimidate them by a military mobilisation.

The Guasú Front has continued to denounce the ongoing impunity given to those responsible for killing peasant leaders. Since the terrible and notorious Curugaty massacre in 2012, in which 17 peasant farmers were murdered, there have been five other killings of peasant leaders in the country without any of the perpetrators of those political assassinations having been found or judged by any court in the country. This lack of security, which is affecting only peasant farmers and political opposition in the country and is exacerbated by the recent government intimidation, confirms that the present government of Paraguay does not respect fundamental rights and is continuing in the same vein as the previous government, which seized power in a coup.

Furthermore, the Paraguayan opposition has demanded that its government provide information on action being taken by the U.S. armed forces in Paraguay. At present, members of this army are entering the country and engaging in activities of an unknown nature. It is therefore imperative that the government clarify what type of operations are being carried out and what objectives these foreign military forces are pursuing.

Is the Vice-President/High Representative aware of the intimidatory acts carried out by the government of Paraguay before the last general strike? Will she urge the Paraguayan Government to put an end to the intimidating military mobilisations and allow the free exercise of the right to strike in the country? What measures is the European Union taking to ensure that Paraguay puts an end to impunity for those responsible for the Curugaty massacre and all the other peasant leader assassinations?