

Question for written answer E-006150/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - 59 Colombians arbitrarily detained more than two years ago in Venezuela

On 1 September 2016, 59 Colombian nationals were arbitrarily detained in Caracas under 'Operación Liberación del Pueblo'. At first, the Venezuelan government alleged that these people belonged to a Colombian paramilitary group. Later, they cited immigration irregularities as justification even though several of these people held official documentation issued by the country's immigration services. In November 2017, a criminal investigation court ordered the release of these Colombians based on the inexistence of arrest warrants to prove that they had committed a crime. To this day, these people have not been the subject of any judicial inquiry, nor have they been accused of any crime. In spite of this, they have been detained for more than two years in extremely precarious conditions regarding hygiene, in improvised cells, with no access to drinking water and sleeping in the open air. Several of them have contracted illnesses and have not received medical treatment. Given the severity of this situation, how is the EU going to demand that the Venezuelan authorities immediately release these Colombians (fulfilling the criminal investigation court's decision), ensure adequate medical care for the illnesses contracted in prison and guarantee fair and independent proceedings?