

Question for written answer E-006280/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Landless Workers Movement activists killed in Brazil

On 8 December 2018, José Bernardo da Silva and Rodrigo Celestino, activists from the Landless Workers Movement, were killed by hooded men at the Dom José Maria Pires camp in the State of Paraíba (Brazil). Both were coordinators of the camp and long-time land and environmental rights activists. On the basis of the evidence collected, the Military Police are treating the case as an execution-style killing. The Prosecutor General of the Republic, the Federal Prosecutor for Citizen Rights and the Regional Prosecutor for Citizen Rights in Paraíba publicly expressed their solidarity with the victims' families. The circumstances of the case point to it being a politically motivated crime, in a country where hatred towards popular movements and the repression of their leaders have been supported and even encouraged in the speeches and proposals of Jair Bolsonaro, first as candidate for the Presidency of Brazil and now in his role as President-elect.

In view of this, how does the EU intend to urge the current government of Brazil to respect and protect social movements and educate citizens about human rights, instead of discrediting or disregarding them?