

Question for written answer E-001639/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - threat of expulsion of millions of people from their traditional territories in India

On 13 February 2019, the Supreme Court of India ordered 21 of that country's states to expel tribal communities from their forest habitat, having rejected their request to have their right to those lands recognised on the basis of a 2006 forest law, which was never enforced owing to a lack of political will. Following an appeal by the Federal State of Bihar, the Supreme Court suspended the expulsion order until July, when there will be a new hearing. However, federal policy makers have done little to defend the right of these communities to their traditional territories and ways of life. If the court order is enforced, the futures of 8 million people will be called into question.

In the light of, among others, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169, and of Parliament's report on violations of the rights of indigenous peoples in the world, including land grabbing (2017/2206(INI)), adopted in 2018 by a very large majority, what action will the Commission take vis-à-vis the Indian Government to ensure that the terrible drama expected in July is prevented?