

**Question for written answer E-000899/2020/rev.1**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

**Subject:** Prosecution of the Chilean Communist MP Hugo Gutiérrez by the Chilean government

Hugo Gutiérrez, an MP belonging to the Chilean Communist Party, is being prosecuted by the Piñera government on stale and trumped-up charges. Experience has shown that persecution of the Communists has invariably been a precursor to a more general all-out assault on workers' rights and the labour movement.

The Communist MP's referral for trial is to be condemned and represents an escalation in the crackdown on the mass mobilisations that have continued since last October, prompted by hikes in the cost of public transport, fuel and electricity.

In a country that, according to the EU, is a 'model' in its region, enjoys high rates of capitalist growth, 'promotes human rights, the rule of law and good governance' and has concluded an Association Agreement with the EU, state riot police killed 4 demonstrators in January 2020, in addition to the dozens killed last year.

Will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative say:

1. How does he view the prosecution of Chilean Communist MP Hugo Gutiérrez by the Piñera government?
2. How does he view the barbaric continuing crackdown on mass mobilisations in Chile which is reminiscent of the dark days of the Pinochet dictatorship?