

Question for written answer E-002564/2020

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

Rule 138

Javi López (S&D)

Subject: Persecution of leaders and political activists in Bolivia

Over the last few days we have borne witness to the disturbing and intolerable persecution of leaders and political activists in Bolivia. The latest incident was the abuse suffered by Patricia Arce, Mayor of the city of Vinto, candidate for Senator and high-ranking politician in the MAS party, at the hands of a mob of anti-MAS protesters who, in November last year, beat and humiliated her.

The coronavirus pandemic should not serve as a pretext for the authoritarian aberrations of a government whose only concern should be the organisation of free and fair elections.

1. Does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative believe that Áñez' interim government is exercising its prerogative to work towards free and fair elections to be held as soon as possible?
2. Does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative believe that Bolivia's interim government is exceeding its authority and further repressing opposition leaders?
3. Does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative believe that free and fair elections, which could be held as soon as the health situation allows and in the presence of international observers and a European Union Election Observation Mission, are in jeopardy?