

Question for written answer E-004321/2020

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Threat to the rule of law in Guatemala

During the election process for judges to the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals in Guatemala, significant anomalies were highlighted by the Public Ministry and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. The Constitutional Court ruled that the congressional committee responsible for the judicial elections must eliminate from consideration those candidates that the Public Ministry had identified as compromised. However, the Congressional Committee, of which many members will face charges themselves once they leave office, has not complied with the Constitutional Court's ruling, and is instead attacking four of the court's judges and threatening to oust them.

1. What is the European External Action Service (EEAS) doing to clearly state its concern and ask for the rule of law to be respected in Guatemala?
2. What action is the EEAS considering taking to strengthen the personal security of the magistrates of the Constitutional Court, congressmen and women, who are demanding a revision of the procedure and correct process, and of the Ombudsman's Office, which is also under threat in this context?
3. What measures is the EEAS considering taking to strengthen democracy and good governance?