

Question for written answer E-001136/2021

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: Murder of environmental defender Fidel Heras Cruz in Oaxaca, Mexico

On 23 January 2021, the lifeless body of Fidel Heras Cruz was found with gunshot wounds inside his truck at the entrance to La Esperanza community, Oaxaca. Previously, he had received threats for his work in defence of the environment. Two days earlier, on 21 January, the defender had received an anonymous letter with death threats.

This crime was committed in Oaxaca, one of the most dangerous Mexican states for land and territory defenders, with 6 murders committed in 2019.

Many international actors, including the EU Delegation, have publicly condemned the crime and asked for an expeditious and transparent investigation.

1. Will the EU Delegation raise this case with the Mexican authorities at the federal and state level as a matter of urgency?
2. Does the EU Delegation plan to visit Oaxaca, either in-person or virtually, to meet the NGOs working on land and territory issues?