

**Question for written answer E-003497/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Protecting humanitarian work following the deaths of three aid workers in Tigray

On 25 June, one Spanish aid worker, María Hernández, and two Ethiopian aid workers, Yohannes Halefom Reda and Tedros Gebremariam Gebremichael, were killed in Tigray. All three worked for Médecins Sans Frontières. Since November 2020, 11 humanitarian workers have died in this conflict alone. Unfortunately, however, this is becoming a global trend. In 2019 there were 483 attacks on humanitarian personnel – a new record – 125 of whom were murdered, notably in Syria, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan and the Central African Republic.

1. What will the Commission do to ensure that there is an investigation into the deaths of María Hernández, Yohannes Halefom Reda and Tedros Gebremariam Gebremichael and that those responsible are brought to justice on charges of international humanitarian law violations?
2. What action has the Commission taken so far with the warring factions in Tigray in order to effectively protect humanitarian work and bring an end to attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers?
3. What measures has the Commission taken to safeguard humanitarian work and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law in view of the dramatic increase in attacks around the world?