

Question for written answer E-004192/2021

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

Rule 138

José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew)

Subject: Six months under arrest for former Bolivian president Jeanine Áñez

Having been arrested in March 2021, former Bolivian president Jeanine Áñez has now spent half a year in pre-trial detention on charges of 'terrorism, sedition and conspiracy'. The legal proceedings against Áñez, initiated following the electoral victory of the Movimiento Al Socialismo, has sparked widespread criticism both inside and outside Bolivia because they are clearly politically motivated and meant as retaliation for her actions after she constitutionally became the country's interim president.

The conditions around the former president's arrest have prompted a formal request from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights seeking to ascertain Áñez's state of health and were also debated by the European Parliament at its April 2021 part-session, in which a majority of the House condemned her detention as arbitrary and illegal and demanded that she be released immediately and the charges dropped.

1. What steps are the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European External Action Service taking to secure the immediate release of former president Áñez?
2. What steps are they taking to ensure that the Bolivian authorities are impartial and objective and follow the law in their investigation of the events of 2019?