

Question for written answer E-004478/2021

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: Political situation in the Philippines

In 2018, the Duterte Government in the Philippines issued an executive order establishing the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict. A number of international organisations have reported that this task force is engaging in 'red-tagging' to accuse people of terrorism or collaboration with the Communist Party of the Philippines or New People's Army. Movements, social organisations, journalists, community leaders, trade unionists and lawyers, among others, face criminal charges and even persecution, threats and attacks.

In June and July 2021, 414 red-tagged individuals, including 61 lawyers, were confirmed to have been killed.

All these practices violate international law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Given that social movements and leaders are still being tagged and persecuted:

With a view to ending impunity, what steps can the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy take to call for the perpetrators to be brought to justice and held accountable?