

Question for written answer E-005613/2021

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

Rule 138

Samira Rafaela (Renew)

Subject: Impunity in Guatemala and Central America in general

The EU has played an important role in building an impartial and independent justice system in Guatemala, a system that included instruments like the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). Regrettably, this progress has been reversed. The CICIG's mandate has been terminated. Journalists and human rights defenders are being systematically persecuted and the reforms to the non-governmental organisation law will restrict the participation of civil society in the justice system. Also, there has been a surge in violence in general in Guatemala, and sexual violence specifically, that continues to affect the lives of women, particularly indigenous women.

1. What is the European External Action Service (EEAS) doing to protect independent judges and prosecutors who remain in Guatemala and in what way is it supporting threatened justice workers?
2. Civil society organisations are playing an important role in monitoring the election processes of the new attorney-general and the human rights ombudsman. What is the EEAS doing to stop the damaging effects of the non-governmental organisation law, which puts the functioning of civil society organisations at risk?
3. How is the EEAS making sure that its efforts in Guatemala and other Central American countries are not counterproductive? Is it considering redirecting support to civil society directly instead of financially and judicially aiding state actors?