

**Question for written answer E-000376/2023**

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

Rule 138

**Idoia Villanueva Ruiz** (The Left)

Subject: Opposition candidates blocked from running in elections in Guatemala

Thelma Cabrera and Jordán Rodas intended to run for President and Vice-President of Guatemala for the Movement for the Liberation of the People party in the June 2023 general elections. On 27 January 2023, however, the country's Directorate-General for the Citizens' Register declared their registration as candidates inadmissible. The decision was based on a subsequently lodged administrative complaint, which breaches the candidates' presumption of innocence and the register's own rules.

Cabrera is a Maya woman and activist, and Rodas a former human rights lawyer. Both have extensive experience working on human rights issues, environmental protection and exposing state corruption. This latest decision means they are blocked from running in the elections. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has warned of the worsening human rights situation in Guatemala.

1. What is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) doing to condemn this situation?
2. Has the VP/HR made his concerns known to the country's authorities?
3. What will the VP/HR do to help ensure candidates can run freely in the upcoming elections and contribute to a fully democratic electoral process?

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