

Question for written answer E-000884/2023/rev.1

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: The enforced disappearance of two environmental activists in Mexico and the potential link to a company based in Luxembourg

On 15 January 2023, Ricardo Lagunes, a human rights lawyer, and Antonio Diaz, an indigenous leader, disappeared in the state of Colima, Mexico. The disappearance occurred amid an ongoing conflict between the indigenous community of San Miguel de Aquila, Michoacán, Mexico and a Luxembourg-based mining company, Ternium. The company is part of the Argentine-Italian Techint group.

While Ternium's role in this case is still unknown, all companies must respect human rights, including in their relationship with human rights defenders and the communities affected by their activities.

1. What EU legal instruments or policy tools are in place to ensure that EU companies provide guarantees for their workers and the communities affected by their work when they undertake activities in areas of high conflict (social, economic and political), in particular in areas where illegal actors operate?
2. What EU legal instruments or policy tools are in place to ensure redress for victims in cases where the activities of EU companies have harmed communities or violated human rights in the areas affected by these activities?
3. In view of the EU guidelines on human rights defenders, how are the EU institutions following up on the case?

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