

**Question for written answer E-001568/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Marisa Matias (The Left)

Subject: Indigenous peoples in India targeted by aerial bombing

The Adivasi are a group of indigenous people from India who live in areas where the extractive mining of precious minerals takes place. On 7 April 2023, in the Bijapur district of the Bastar division of the Indian state of Chhattisgarh, Indian Government forces ordered an aerial bomb attack¹ against the Adivasi people and sent three helicopters to discharge heavy machine gun fire on villagers.

The attack was part of the ongoing Operation SAMADHAN-Prahar, a military police force operation targeting indigenous environmental defenders. This is the fourth aerial attack in the past three years². These attacks grossly violate the right to life of indigenous people in India, and contribute to widespread environmental destruction. Although the Indian Air Force is not officially deployed for combat in Chhattisgarh, these repeated aerial bombardments against civilian populations suggest a new dimension to the state terror that has been inflicted on the Adivasi population of Bastar for years. For this reason, I would like to ask:

How is the Commission, and specifically DG ECHO, supporting the victims of aerial bombing and the indigenous environmental defenders who are suffering persecution in India?

Submitted: 16.5.2023

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2AFc-qUJck>.

² <https://www.thequint.com/news/india/chhattisgarh-tribals-claim-drone-attack-in-bastar-forces-deny#read-more>