

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2842/06  
by Carlo Fatuzzo (PPE-DE)  
to the Council

Subject: Ingrid Betancourt held captive in Colombia since 23 February 2002

There are continual and repeated violations of human rights all over the world, including the much-publicised kidnap of the senator Ingrid Betancourt in Colombia, which took place a long time ago, on 23 February 2002. There has been no news of her since August 2003 and it is thought she is being held hostage by guerrillas.

She was kidnapped because of her parliamentary work, whose aim was to denounce the widespread corruption in many areas of both public and private life in that unfortunate Latin American country.

The Colombian authorities do not seem to be doing everything in their power to bring the country back to a state of true democracy and respect for the rights of all citizens, including Ingrid Betancourt, who has been victimised precisely because she is the most prominent exponent of a political movement whose main aim was to bring about this change.

Does not the Council consider it necessary, important and useful to issue a public request, at the forthcoming European Council summit, for the release of Mrs Betancourt by her captors?

Does not the Council also consider that it would be appropriate to propose a code of conduct for relations between the European Union and all the countries that have no practical commitment to combating the violations of civil rights taking place on their territory?