

**Question for written answer E-002987/2024**

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

Rule 144

**Leire Pajín (S&D)**

Subject: Murder of environmental activist and human rights defender Juan López, and the reopening of Guapinol activists' trials

Juan López was the coordinator of the Municipal Committee in Defence of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa and was part of the Guapinol activist movement that protects the San Pedro and Guapinol rivers. The movement has been fighting for Guapinol inhabitants' right to a sustainable, clean and healthy environment since 2013. A group of Guapinol activists was nominated for the Sakharov Prize in 2020.

Mr López was murdered on 14 September, part of a tragic increase in the violent repression faced by environmental activists in Honduras. Between 2023 and 2024, at least four activists have been murdered – those crimes have remained unpunished despite repeated reports from activists on cases of corruption among authorities.

Meanwhile, the La Ceiba Court of Appeal has reopened the case against five Guapinol environmental activists.

Is the Commission following the case of Guapinol activists and their families? What actions are being taken to increase their protection in the face of threats and violence?

Submitted: 17.12.2024