

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002311/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left)
(10 June 2025)

Subject: Human rights situation in the river basins of Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó in Bajo Atrato (Colombia)

National and international organisations are warning of the escalating human rights situation in the river basins of Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó in Bajo Atrato (Colombia). With illegal armed groups' territorial control increasing, the ethnic communities that have historically defended human rights and the environment and put forward valuable peacebuilding proposals have been threatened and attacked. The region, one of the world's most biodiverse and rich in natural resources, is the focus of many licit and illicit economic interests. A recent investigation by the Environmental Investigation Agency reported that timber illegally logged in the region was being imported into the EU. Furthermore, historic local leaders are being brought to trial.

1. Is the EU delegation aware of the security situation of social and environmental leaders in Bajo Atrato?
2. Within the framework of EU guidelines on human rights defenders, what is the Vice-President/High Representative doing to monitor legal process 2022 (Chocó-Riosucio Ordinary Circuit Court, Summary No 030-132, Rd. 2761531890012022-00104-00), against historic leaders of Jiguamiandó (Carmen del Darién-Chocó) despite their proven status as victims of conflict and the precautionary measures of the IACHR (6-18 MC140-14CO) and the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (Auto 175 of 2019)?

Submitted: 10.6.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(4 August 2025)

The EU follows closely the human rights situation in the department of Chocó (Colombia). In this region, *inter alia*, the EU supports local youth councils, accompanies the urban peace dialogues in Quibdo, and provides broad emergency assistance, for example, following last year's severe flooding.

As part of the campaign *Defendamos la Vida*, human rights defenders from the Bajo Atrato recently participated in a workshop to strengthen capacities for protection and advocacy of human rights defenders and social leaders in Bogota.

The protection of social and environmental leaders is among the top human rights priorities of the EU in Colombia. Protection is provided via global programmes like the protect defenders mechanism, as well as Colombia-based projects like *El derecho a defender derechos*, a EUR 2.15 million project to protect and empower human rights defenders, social leaders and communities.

Human rights issues are regularly discussed in the EU's bilateral dialogue with Colombia, including, most recently, at the High-Level Political Dialogue in Brussels on 27 June 2025.

The EU-Colombia Human Rights Dialogue, tentatively scheduled for October 2025, provides a space to exchange on topics and cases of concern, such as the ones mentioned by the Honourable Member, and to identify new areas of cooperation.

As part of its dialogues with national authorities, the EU will monitor the actions under way to restore the rights of the Jiguamiandó community (Carmen del Darién, Chocó).
