

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002907/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left)
(14 July 2026)

Subject: Human rights situation in Colombia

Following the elections in Colombia, social organisations are warning of an increased risk of criminalisation, stigmatisation and threats against human rights defenders, social leaders and those engaged in the peacebuilding process. As examples, we cite the campaign against former High Commissioner for Peace Danilo Rueda, the threats directed at former National Electoral Council magistrate Luis Guillermo Pérez, and the attempted assassination and physical surveillance of Cleiner Almanza (National Network of Women Searchers)

Allegations have also been made of possible electoral irregularities, including interference by the US and irregular funding by Abelardo de la Espriella, campaign speeches targeting left-wing groups which are fuelling insecurity, and even threats of judicial persecution of President Gustavo Petro. These developments could affect the stability of democracy, undermine progress towards peace and jeopardise the safety of key regional figures.

1. What is the assessment of the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and the EEAS regarding the situation of human rights and democracy in Colombia?
2. What measures will the VP/HR and EEAS demand to ensure the protection of opponents, defenders and peace activists?
3. Does the VP/HR intend to step up the dialogue with the Colombian authorities in order to prevent the criminalisation of President Petro and those who have committed to peace in recent years?

Submitted: 14.7.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(13 August 2026)

The EU and Colombia are like-minded partners in their strong commitment to the rule of law, democracy, and the protection of human rights.

While noting the resilience of Colombia's democratic institutions, the EU is concerned by the persistent violence, threats and intimidation against those engaged in human rights and peacebuilding activities.

The protection of human rights defenders and other persons at risk remains a priority in the EU's engagement with Colombia and features prominently in the bilateral political dialogue, including the EU-Colombia Human Rights Dialogue. The EU Special Envoy for the Peace Process in Colombia also engages the Colombian authorities on human rights issues.

Through its cooperation programmes, the EU continues to promote the implementation of protection measures, accountability for threats and attacks, and the strengthening of institutions responsible for safeguarding fundamental rights.

EU-funded projects have targeted child recruitment by armed groups in Guaviare, Cauca, Valle del Cauca and Chocó; strengthening protection mechanisms and empowerment of Human Rights Defenders and enhancing victims' engagement with the *Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz*.

The EU remains engaged in support of peace efforts with a focus on local governance, rural development, reintegration of former combatants, rule of law and the protection of vulnerable communities.
