

Question for written answer E-004159/2019

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Systematic violence against women in Bolivia

Bolivia's political and social crisis has been accompanied by witness accounts, images and reports of violence against indigenous women, public representatives and activists from the Movement for Socialism. Shops have been looted, houses belonging to female leaders of social organisations and their headquarters have been set on fire, and indigenous women have been abducted, tortured and subjected to sexual violence. There have also been a number of speeches against women's rights.

On 6 November, indigenous women and women from rural areas came together to protest against the violence. During the march, Patricia Arce, one of the country's mayors, was attacked and dragged through the streets, had her hair forcibly cut and was covered in red paint. The United Nations has stated that it 'deplores the violence and inhumane treatment' against Patricia Arce and other women, men, youth, girls and boys in the country.

Given the EU's role in promoting human rights internationally, what steps will it take to ensure that the human rights of women, especially indigenous women, are protected, that systematic violence against them stops and that the coup is brought to an end?