

Brussels, **20 DEC. 2018**
A(2018)5690534-6386120

Mr Pier Antonio Panzeri MEP
Chairman of the subcommittee on Human Rights
Ms Ana Gomes MEP
European Parliament
Brussels

Cara Ana,

Thank you for your letter of 7 November, wherein you bring to my attention the trial of the eight persons charged for the murder of Honduran Human Rights Defender and environmentalist Berta Cáceres and the attempt against the life of her colleague Gustavo Castro on 2 March 2016.

Please rest assured that this emblematic case is well known to me and the EEAS and is being closely monitored. Already in March 2016, the EU issued statements condemning the assassination of Ms Cáceres asking for thorough and speedy investigations. This was done at local level by the EU Delegation and Member States and taken up by the local donors coordination group G16. This was also followed by a statement issued by my spokesperson where we insisted that all culprits should be brought to justice and that impunity should not prevail.

Ms Cáceres' NGO, the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) have been a regular interlocutor of the EU Delegation in Honduras for years and direct contacts are frequent. The Head of Delegation has also met with the family of Berta Cáceres and their lawyer.

The services of the EEAS and the European Commission regularly meet with human rights defenders from Honduras and the case of the trial for the murderers of Berta Cáceres is frequently addressed.

The EU Delegation, in full coordination with the EU Member State embassies accredited in Honduras, has been present during the audiences. My spokesperson just issued a statement on 22 November reiterating the importance of a transparent and public judicial process.

The EU will continue to closely monitor this case and the need to ensure that justice is served, through a rigorous, impartial, and independent process.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini