

Question for written answer E-000099/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Murder of Luqman Shahzad and the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims

On 24 December 2014 Mr Luqman Ahmad Shahzad, an Ahmadi Muslim, was shot dead in the city of Gujranwala, Pakistan. Following the massacre of school children in Peshawar, religious and community tensions in Pakistan are running high and the plight and ongoing persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan continues.

On 22 December 2014 the Pakistani television channel GEO broadcast a programme in which viewers were urged to unite against the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, claiming that the community was responsible for various plots against the Pakistani state, with one guest suggesting that Ahmadi Muslims were responsible for the massacre in Peshawar.

The 1984 Ordinance XX of Pakistan, which makes it a criminal offence for Ahmadis to identify themselves as Muslims, remains on the statute book and tragically continues to be used to justify attacks and violence against Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan.

1. Is the Vice-President / High Representative aware of this particular case and has the EU delegation in Pakistan looked into the circumstances of Mr Shahzad's murder?
2. What recent discussions has the VP/HR had with the authorities in Pakistan regarding the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims?
3. Would the VP/HR consider recommending the suspension of the GSP+ status for Pakistan if more concrete efforts are not made to protect religious minorities?