

Question for written answer E-006058/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Philippe Juvin (PPE)

Subject: VP-HR - Persecution of Christians and minorities in the Middle East

On 4 April 2015, the Pope spoke out against the 'indifference' to the 'jihadist fury' to which Christians around the world are falling victim. According to the Freedom of Religion and the Persecution of Christians report published by the NGO Open Doors International, in 2014 at least 4 344 Christians were killed for faith-related reasons, which is double the figure for 2013. Among other information, the report reveals that in a very large number of countries, it is Islamic extremism that is behind this persecution.

On 27 March 2015, during the Security Council debate on victims of attacks and abuses on ethnic or religious grounds in the Middle East, the UN Secretary-General announced a Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism and the creation of a committee of respected experts. The French Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development has proposed that an Action Charter be drawn up structured around humanitarian and political support, military action and combating impunity.

1. Will the Vice-President/High Representative be contributing to the work of the committee of experts?
2. Does the Vice-President/High Representative support the French proposal that a fund be set up to assist refugees to return home under the aegis of the United Nations?
3. How does the Vice-President/High Representative envisage the protection of minorities in the Middle East being stepped up?