

**Question for written answer E-008705/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE) and Javier Nart (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Harassment of the Christian community in South Sudan

For months now, the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church has been suffering major harassment at the hands of the authorities. Many members of the church have been arrested (including the Reverend Michael Yat and the Reverend Peter Yen Reith) and accused of undermining the constitutional system, crimes against the state, espionage and blasphemy – offences that carry a possible death sentence under Sudan's 1991 criminal code. The Government of South Sudan is waging a campaign of threats and intimidation against the Christian community, as well as destroying church property, which constitutes a breach of Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Sudan is a signatory.

With this in mind, what kind of diplomatic pressure is the EU considering bringing to bear to ensure that South Sudan fulfils its international commitments and that the basic human rights of Christians are upheld?