

Question for written answer E-010593/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Branislav Škripek (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Minorities in Iraq

The situation in Iraq is not improving. The Iraqi Government is not properly able to halt or defeat IS. So far only the Kurdish forces are able to stop IS in the Kurdish Regional Government areas and in the (disputed) areas adjacent to their territory.

The disputed areas, however, are not inhabited solely by Kurdish people, but also Chaldean, Syriac, Assyrian (Christians), Yezidi and Turkmen minorities. These groups are suffering many atrocities at the hands of IS. Since many have fled or been killed, these groups, being indigenous people of Mesopotamia, are facing a large demographic decline.

It seems that these minorities do not have real allies at the moment. Iraq is not protecting them, and the Kurdish Government seems to be using them for solely political aims, but keeps them unarmed and politically disempowered, in spite of its promise to deliver arms and equal treatment with a clear say over their own areas and future.

What will the VP/HR do to help these indigenous minorities in those areas so as to ensure respect for their rights and their inclusion in decision-making regarding their areas and in the defence of their territory against IS and to ensure that promises are kept?