

**Question for written answer E-004604/2016**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Charles Tannock (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Christian persecution in Pakistan

Pakistan's blasphemy laws are a constant topic of concern. May 2016 has seen these laws invoked in a number of cases that highlight once again the need for reform.

One example is that of Imran Masih from rural Punjab, who faces charges for allegedly viewing a video on Facebook that insulted the prophet – a crime that was reported by a reputed friend of his, named Bilal. Residents of his village, Chak-44, were subsequently alleged to have called for his burning alive in front of a church.

This case stands alongside fresh reports of Christian women being abducted, Mariam Mushtaq of Lahore being one recent example, and continued attacks on churches.

1. Is the VP/HR aware of the two particular cases raised here and has she raised them with the Pakistani authorities? If not, does she intend to do so?
2. Has the VP/HR recently conducted talks with the Pakistani authorities on the subject of Christian persecution in Pakistan, the blasphemy laws and the need to uphold a strong record in human rights as part of the terms of the country's GSP+ status?