

**Question for written answer E-005932/2016/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Lorenzo Fontana (ENF)**

Subject: VP/HR - Protection of religious freedom in Pakistan: the case of Nadeem James

On 12 July 2016, the international press reported that Nadeem James, a member of the Christian community, was being sought by police in Pakistan following accusations by a Muslim friend regarding a poem he had allegedly sent to him on WhatsApp that was disrespectful to the Prophet Muhammad and other Islamic holy figures. Nadeem James has since fled his home and is being sought throughout the country. In the meantime, some of his family have been 'placed under protective custody'.

Such accusations against Christians in Pakistan, which have, on a number of occasions, proved to be entirely unfounded, frequently cause them to fall foul of the blasphemy law, one of the harshest in the Islamic world, carrying a possible death penalty.

In view of this:

1. Is the Vice-President / High Representative aware of the above situation?
2. What measures is it taking to protect religious freedom in Pakistan?