

**Question for written answer E-007984/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Lorenzo Fontana (ENF)**

Subject: Protecting persecuted Christians: the case of Asia Bibi

Asia Bibi, who is a Roman Catholic and the mother of five children (one of whom is disabled) has been condemned to death in Pakistan for 'blasphemy'. She has spent over 2 000 days in jail, and for months now her life has hinged on a decision from the Pakistan Supreme Court, which on 13 October 2016 once again deferred passing judgement. After their mother was taken into custody, her daughters Esham and Esha were forced to hide far from their native village of Ittanwali.

According to statistics, 150 million Christians worldwide are subject to persecution, and 80% of all acts of religious persecution are committed against Christians.

In view of this, can the Commission state:

- whether it is aware of this situation;
- what it will do to protect Asia Bibi;
- whether it will take steps to protect the 150 million Christians worldwide who are subject to persecution?