

**Question for written answer E-008596/2016**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Charles Tannock (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Persecution of the Bahá'í community in Iran

Reports suggest that a number of shops and other commercial outlets owned or associated with the Bahá'í community in Iran have been forcibly closed by the Iranian authorities. This follows their temporary closure in early November in order to celebrate a religious holiday associated with the Bahá'í faith.

It is claimed that this is alongside other efforts to marginalise the community such as banning individuals and their family members from government posts, denying or delaying licences associated with establishing businesses, and depriving access to universities and higher education institutions.

1. Is the VP/HR aware of these claims?
2. Will the VP/HR ensure that the EU Delegation in Tehran raises these concerns with the Iranian authorities?