

**Question for written answer E-000195/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
María Teresa Giménez Barbat (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Disappearance of liberal activists in Pakistan

The media and human rights organisations have this month reported that five liberal secular activists – Ahmad Waqass Goraya, Asim Saeed, Salman Haider, Ahmed Raza Naseer and Samar Abbas – have disappeared in Pakistan.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression has urged the Pakistan Government to locate the activists and ensure their safe return home, citing the crime of blasphemy as being a possible reason for their disappearance.

According to the Freedom of Thought Report 2016, the political climate is 'notably repressive' against religious and non-religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which is also one of the least safe countries for journalists, according to the World Press Freedom Index.

What diplomatic measures is the High Representative thinking of taking to clarify these events and ensure respect for the fundamental rights of freedom of thought and freedom of expression in Pakistan?