

**Question for written answer E-001614/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Pascal Arimont (PPE)**

Subject: Disregard and undermining of human rights

The example of Bahai Hamed bin Haydara, sentenced to death in Yemen on account of his beliefs, shows that minorities (and the term can refer to millions of people) are still the victims of oppression, exclusion and sanctions, and that such disregard of human rights is even on the increase: as a result of this judgment, all Baha'i institutions will in future be prohibited in Yemen.

Given this context, what measures does the Commission consider appropriate in order to counter the continuing disregard and undermining of human rights, notably those of minorities?

In connection with the Baha'i, already in 2010, the then High Representative Catherine Ashton criticised the sentencing of seven Baha'i leaders in Iran to 20 years in prison<sup>1</sup>.

What consequences does the Commission draw from the fact that, even eight years after this criticism, nothing has changed as regards the fundamental problem of oppression of minorities, in this case through the incarceration of members of a religious community, and that in some cases it seems to have got worse in some respects?

What efforts has the Commission taken to counteract the oppression of minorities?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_PESC-10-227\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_PESC-10-227_en.htm)