

**Question for written answer P-008836/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Religious minorities and persecution of Christians in Sudan

Strict application of Islamic law in Sudan has resulted in the persecution of Christians through expulsions, harassment, the destruction of churches and the detention of priests.

The imprisonment without judicial guarantees of Presbyterian pastors Peter Yeith Reith and Yat Michael, both of whom risk being tortured and sentenced to death, demands a reaction from the EU, given that the EU is committed to freedom of religion, conscience and thought, and has stressed that governments have a duty to guarantee these freedoms. The development of human rights, democracy and civil liberties is the base for EU foreign relations, and is codified in democracy clauses, in Council conclusions on freedom of religion and on countering intolerance, and in the Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief.

1. Is the EU Ambassador in Khartoum aware of the situation of these two priests? Can he express to the Sudanese Government the EU's concern about them?
2. As of November 1999, the EU and Sudan have been engaged in formal political dialogue to address concerns about human rights, the rule of law and democratisation. Can the VP/HR express the EU's concern about the lack of respect shown by the Sudanese Government to the rights of religious minorities?
3. Would the VP/HR consider promoting a cooperation action for the protection of religious minorities, with particular attention given to education?