

Question for written answer P-015286/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Ahmadiyya community - Persecution in Pakistan

It is reported that on Friday 20 November 2015 there were a number of attacks against business premises, homes and mosques belonging to members of the Ahmadiyya community in Jhelum, Pakistan. Similar incidents were also reported in nearby Kala Gujran and Baitul Zikr. It is suggested that these attacks followed an accusation that a member of the Ahmadiyya community had desecrated the Quran.

These alleged attacks are emblematic of the continued persecution that the Ahmadiyya community is subject to in Pakistan. Such discrimination and persecution is also being witnessed in the ongoing local elections across Pakistan, in which Ahmadis have been registered on separate electoral lists, as mandated by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

1. What discussions, if any, has the Vice-President / High Representative (VP/HR) had with the Pakistani authorities on the alleged attacks?
2. What pressure has the EU exerted on the Pakistani authorities to amend Pakistan's constitution and rescind Ordinance XX of 1984, in order to put a stop to any discrimination and persecution of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan?
3. Does the VP/HR consider these human right abuses as sufficient grounds for jeopardising Pakistan's GSP+ status?