

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0137/04
by Jillian Evans (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: The case of Mrs Siham Qandah, Jordan

Is the Commission aware of the case of Mrs Siham Qandah, a Jordanian citizen? Mrs Qandah, who is a Christian, has been facing the loss of custody of her two children, as they are not being brought up as Muslims.

Mrs Qandah was widowed in 1994 and subsequently told that she was ineligible for her army-serving husband's pension as he had, unbeknown to her and on apparently forged documentation, converted to Islam in 1991. The Jordanian courts appear to have threatened Mrs Qandah with a prison sentence, and have been attempting to have custody of the children transferred to Mrs Qandah's estranged brother, who has converted to Islam.

What is the Commission policy on such cases of apparently state-permitted involvement, which is in breach of the International Treaty of Human Rights (Article 18)?