

Question for written answer E-001751/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Mario Mauro (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Catholic priest killed in Zanzibar

On 17 February 2013, a Catholic priest was killed in front of his church in Stone Town in the capital of Zanzibar in Tanzania. The murder risks sparking renewed violence between Muslims and Christians in a country in which 90 % of the population is Sunni.

Although no terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the murder, the Islamist group Uamsho, which in May 2012 claimed responsibility for burning down two churches in Tanzania, has been blamed.

Religious violence between Muslims and Catholics escalated again in November 2012 when a group of attackers threw acid in the face of a Muslim cleric, increasing tensions which, on Christmas Day, resulted in an armed attack on a Catholic priest, seriously injuring him.

In the face of these incidents, which may permanently jeopardise religious relations between Catholics and Muslims in Tanzania, can the Vice-President/High Representative say:

1. what measures the European Union has taken following last May's attacks, for which the Islamist group Uamsho claimed responsibility, in order to stop the escalation of religious violence in Tanzania;
2. what measures the European Union intends to take to curb the string of religiously motivated attacks that have been carried out in Tanzania since last May;
3. what measures the European Union intends to take to protect the Catholic minority in Tanzania?