

**Question for written answer E-002947/2013/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Cornelis de Jong (GUE/NGL) and Peter van Dalen (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - EU action in response to the attack on the Christian community in Lahore

Is the Commission aware of the recent attack on the Christian community in Lahore, in which, inter alia, 180 houses were burned down? If so, what is the response of the EU delegation? If not, why has there not been any response from the EU delegation?

Is the Commission aware that members of the Punjab Provincial Assembly and a member of the national Parliament, including members of the governing political party PML-N, took part in the violence?¹ Will the Commission discuss the role played by the politicians in the violence during the next round of consultations on human rights between the EEAS and the Government of Pakistan?

Is the Commission aware that the violence arose from a dispute over land rights, in connection with which the law on blasphemy was misused in order to drive Christians off the land? If so, will the Commission, during the next human rights consultations between the EEAS and the Government of Pakistan, call for the law on blasphemy to be amended so as to prevent its being abused?

Does the Commission consider that the absence of a satisfactory education system, and the fact that the educational curriculum presents a negative image of minorities and women in India, can be regarded as a major cause of the adverse image of minorities which prevails in the country? If so, does the Commission believe that the EU should play a role in this regard by combating the negative images through its education projects?

Does the Commission consider that the EU, in its role as a trading partner, ought to express more critical views and to bring more pressure to bear to secure respect for human rights and attainment of the human rights benchmarks?

¹ <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-057-2013>.