

Question for written answer E-005133/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Anna Hedh (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Saudi Arabia and human rights

Saudi Arabia is continuing to commit widespread breaches of fundamental human rights, in spite of having declared its acceptance of many recommendations in the 2009 Universal Periodic Review by the UN Human Rights Council. Saudi Arabia regularly violates the rights of religious minorities; people who belong to these minorities are living under threat and many of them have been arrested.

In May 2012 Sultan Hamid Marzooq al-Enezi and Saud Falih Awad al-Enezi were arrested for becoming members of the Ahmadiyya community in Saudi Arabia. Since then they have been kept in prison without being charged. Their present whereabouts and status are not known, and they have not had access to legal representation.

This situation is intolerable and the EU has a responsibility, in its relations with Saudi Arabia, to take up the matter and demand that the fundamental rights of all religious minorities should be respected.

In the light of the above, I should like to ask the Vice-President / High Representative:

1. What action is the EU taking to urge Saudi Arabia to ensure genuine freedom of religion, particularly with a view to the public practice of religion and religious minorities?
2. If the situation remains unchanged, what strategies does the EU propose to adopt in future in relations with Saudi Arabia?
3. How is the EU delegation in Riyadh dealing with these issues?
4. Is the EU doing anything specifically to ensure the release of Sultan Hamid Marzooq al-Enezi and Saud Falih Awad al-Enezi?