

Question for written answer E-000692/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Bas Belder (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Christians sentenced in Sudan

On 29 January 2017 three Christians were sentenced to long prison terms in Sudan. Abdulmonem Abdumawla and the preacher Hassan Abduraheem, both Sudanese, and the Czech aid worker Petr Jasek, were arrested in December 2015 and were held in custody for eight months before they were officially charged with an offence. The court sentenced Jasek to life imprisonment for spying, as well as to a heavy fine and various terms of imprisonment for other offences. The Sudanese nationals were sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for complicity in spying, and another two years for incitement to hatred and spreading rumours to undermine the state.

1. Is the High Representative aware of this case?
2. What has the EU done, and what can it do, to support these people who have been sentenced, one of whom is an EU citizen, and guarantee them due process?
3. What action is the EU taking to counteract the growing pressure being exerted by the Sudanese authorities on churches and religious minorities in the country?