

**Question for written answer E-005634/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Stefano Maullu (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Missionary Gigi Maccalli taken hostage

The missionary Gigi Maccalli, from the Society of African Missions (SMA), was taken hostage in Niger during the night on 17 September 2018.

The mission at Bomoanga, where Fr Maccalli worked as a priest, was established in the 1990s and is committed to tackling illiteracy and poverty, and to promoting health, hygiene and development conditions which respect human dignity.

There has been no news of Fr Maccalli since he was taken hostage, and no information about the identity of the hostage takers, who are probably jihadists from nearby Burkina Faso, nor information about the reasons or purpose of the abduction, or of Fr Maccalli's condition.

Can VP/HR say:

- 1) What action will she take to enforce respect for the fundamental freedoms of a citizen of the European Union?
- 2) What action will she take to free Fr Maccalli as soon as possible and to clarify the situation?