

Question for written answer E-003609/2021

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: Violence and discrimination against religious minorities in India

Recently the NGO Open Doors published a report conducted by researchers of the London School of Economics and Political Science entitled 'Destructive Lies' on disinformation, speech that incites violence and discrimination against religious minorities in India¹.

The report states that 'daily life for many Christian and Muslim communities in urban and rural India has become an excruciating struggle to earn a living and practice their faith while also remaining alive and under the radar of the far-right Hindutva organizations that now dominate the Indian public and political sphere'. It shows that religious minorities are experiencing systematic violent harassment, arson attacks on places of worship, and rape and murder at the hands of Hindu nationalist mobs. Such attacks are ignored and even condoned by state actors, the police and the media.

1. Did the VP/HR take note of this report?
2. Will the EU establish the respect for the human rights of all Indians, including religious minorities, as a condition to any aid or trade agreement with India, and will it establish monitoring mechanisms to ensure that this condition is respected?
3. Following the report's findings, would the EU encourage the establishment of an international fact-finding commission, under UN auspices for example, which would investigate violence and other human rights violations against religious minorities in India?

¹ <https://www.opendoors.de/sites/default/files/Destructive-Lies-Executive-Summary-DIGITAL-ODDE-2021.pdf>