

**Question for written answer E-002046/2023
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: Persecution of Christians in Nigeria

In Nigeria, a terrorist group of militant herdsmen has taken the persecution of Christians to unprecedented levels.

Last year, religiously motivated attacks led to the deaths of over 5 600 Christians and the targeting of over 2 100 churches, as well as the forcible displacement of more than 124 000 Christians, almost 15 000 of whom have become refugees. Because some states in northern Nigeria enforce Sharia law, Christian residents are systematically discriminated against, and are effectively treated as second-class citizens.

These communities are living under the constant threat of human rights abuses and of human trafficking.

The persecution extends to presidential elections where, unable to vote for the candidate of their choice, Christians are being forced to vote for a Muslim one.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Vice-President and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy aware of the situation in Nigeria?
2. If so, what will he do to protect Christians there?

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