

ORAL QUESTION H-0791/03  
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2003  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Lennart Sacrédeus  
to the Commission

Subject: Fate of 22 Egyptian converts

In late October, 22 citizens who had applied to change their Muslim names to Christian names were arrested in Egypt. To have a Christian name changed to a Muslim name for an ID card usually takes 24 hours. In this particular case, where the reverse procedure is involved, the 22 Egyptian citizens have still not had their change of name approved.

Moreover, according to reports from the human rights organisation Christian Solidarity Watch Worldwide in Brussels, several of the 22 Egyptian citizens have been arrested and assaulted by the police. According to the news agency Compass Direct, the same fate has befallen Mariam Girgigis Maker, 30, and Yusuf Samuel Makari, 42, a married couple from Alexandria who attempted to help the converts.

Will the Commission draw attention to these events and bring its influence to bear on the Egyptian authorities?

Tabled: 04.12.2003

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