Major interpellation for written answer with debate O-000058/2018

to the Commission

Rule 130b


Subject: Major interpellation - Violation of fundamental human rights of women in Pakistan

On 10 April 2018, a 25-year-old Christian woman, Asma Yacoob, was doused in acid before being set alight by a Muslim man, Rizwan Gujjar, 30, after she had refused to convert to Islam and marry him. Due to the severity of her wounds, she died in hospital.

Yacoob’s case is just one example of how Christian girls are treated in Pakistan. Based on the EU’s GSP+ assessment of Pakistan¹, the number of kidnappings, rapes and forced conversions of mostly underage women and girls is estimated at around 1,000 per year. Severe violence against Christian women ranges from murder to sexual violence, domestic violence, acid attacks, kidnappings and harassment. The provincial assembly of Sindh, where most of these cases occur, took an important step to address this problem by adopting the Protection of Minorities Act. However, due to protests from conservative religious groups, the act has not yet been enacted.

How is the Commission ensuring the elimination of all forms of violence and the promotion of women’s fundamental human rights, especially those of Christian women and women belonging to other minorities?

Will the Commission consider these facts and reconsider Pakistan’s position within the GSP+?