

**Priority question for written answer P-004924/2021
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Frances Fitzgerald (PPE)

Subject: Attacks on non-Islamic institutions in Bangladesh

Attacks on non-Islamic institutions in Bangladesh have been taking place, with increasing brutality, since 13 October 2021.

The World Hindu Federation's Bangladesh Chapter has reported that more than 335 temples, 1 650 Hindu houses, and Hindu-owned shops in more than 35 districts have been vandalised and set on fire. Furthermore, they also believe that 14 Hindus, including seven priests, have been killed, 17 Hindus have been reported missing and at least 26 Hindu women and girls – including three members of the same family – have been raped. A 10-year-old Hindu girl was killed after being gang-raped.

While violence from different religious communities in both Bangladesh and India has been ongoing in recent weeks, Hindu people are a significant religious minority in Bangladesh. Therefore as part of the EU's work on promoting the protection of religious minorities and religious freedoms, I would like to ask the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

1. What action has the European External Action Service taken on this matter so far? Has this issue been raised with the Ambassador to Bangladesh?
2. When will the Commission appoint a new Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the European Union?