

27.4.2015

0014/2015

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on recognition of the genocide perpetrated against Christians around the world and the establishment of a European Day against the persecution of and discrimination against Christians around the world

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Lapse date: 27.7.2015

0014/2015

Written declaration, pursuant to Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure, on recognition of the genocide perpetrated against Christians around the world and the establishment of a European Day against the persecution of and discrimination against Christians around the world¹

1. Religious freedom is under threat around the world and Christians are one of the most persecuted groups.
2. According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity, 100 000 Christians are killed every year, or one every five minutes.
3. The OSCE has confirmed that 80% of the persons who suffer religious persecution throughout the world are Christians.
4. Open Doors puts the number of Christians killed and tortured around the world at 100 million at least and has stated that ‘while the year 2014 will go down in history for having the highest level of global persecution of Christians in the modern era, current conditions suggest the worst is yet to come’.
5. The Commission is called upon to monitor the situation of Christian communities as part of the political dialogue with the countries of the Middle East and Africa.
6. The Commission is called upon to ensure that development aid is granted only to countries which undertake to uphold the principle of religious freedom and to comply with the provisions of Article 21 TEU and Article 205 TFEU.
7. With a view to raising public awareness of this genocide and ensuring that the Christians who have fallen victim to religious intolerance are not forgotten, we call for the establishment of a European Day against the persecution of and discrimination against Christians around the world.
8. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ In accordance with Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, when the declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it shall be published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.