

Question for written answer E-004471/2025

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: Religious freedoms in Egypt for Baha'is, Coptic Christians, and the Ahmadiyya

Following the delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries' mission to Egypt in May 2025, which was joined by the European External Action Service for a meeting of the EU-Egypt Subcommittee on Political Matters, Human Rights and Democracy, the situation of religious minorities in Egypt remains alarming. Baha'is have faced state-sponsored persecution since the 1960 decree that banned their religious practices, leaving them stateless and without legal recognition.

Coptic Christians continue to endure systemic discrimination, church bombings and ongoing violent attacks. Similarly, the Ahmadiyya community is persecuted for their beliefs, with many subjected to violence, arbitrary detention and restrictions. In March 2025, four members of this community were arrested and forcibly disappeared.

In light of the EU-Egypt Summit and the EU's macro-financial assistance to Egypt, specifically Article 2 of the agreement, which links the disbursement of funds to respect for human rights:

1. Following the EU-Egypt Summit and in the light of the joint statement's commitment to human rights, what steps will the VP/HR take to ensure that the specific issue of religious freedoms, particularly for Baha'is, Coptic Christians, and Ahmadiyya, is raised in follow-up EU-Egypt dialogues and reflected in the implementation of the Macro-Financial Assistance agreement?
2. Will the VP/HR work with the Egyptian authorities to ensure that Baha'is, Coptic Christians and the Ahmadiyya are granted full legal recognition and protection of their rights?

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