

Question for written answer E-001455/2026

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: Escalation of violence against the Christian minority in Syria and urgent need for action by the European Union

In recent days, serious incidents of violence have been recorded against the Greek Orthodox Christian population in the city of Suqaylabiyah in central Syria.¹ These events add to a long list of violent attacks targeting the country's Christian minority² allegedly carried out with the tolerance or even guidance of forces close to/subject to the Syrian regime.

Considering that Christians are a historical, integral part of Syria's multicultural society and deserve special protection, and that the European Parliament has called on 'the Syrian authorities to ensure the protection and fundamental rights of all ethnic and religious communities, including Christians' and underlines that 'any cooperation with the Syrian authorities must be conditional on tangible and verifiable progress in the protection of civilians, respect for the ceasefire, human rights and minority rights':³

1. Does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to take concrete diplomatic initiatives to protect religious minorities in Syria and prevent similar attacks in the future?
2. Does she intend to propose a review of the Union's stance on imposing sanctions against the Syrian interim government, in light of the ongoing human rights violations?
3. Is she committed to ensuring that all forms of humanitarian financial support are subject to strict conditionality, linked to the effective protection of all religious and ethnic minorities, as requested by the European Parliament?

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¹ According to audio-visual material circulated on the internet, armed individuals are seen attacking the city, destroying property and carrying out widespread looting.

² The incidents of violence include, among others, attacks on schools, churches and public and private spaces. A typical example is the bombing last June at the Orthodox Church of the Prophet Elijah in Damascus, with dozens of victims and injuries.

³ See resolutions of 12 February 2026 on the situation in Northeast Syria, the violence against civilians and the need to maintain a sustainable ceasefire (2026/2602(RSP)) and of 10 July 2025 on the urgent need to protect religious minorities in Syria following the recent terrorist attack on Mar Elias Church in Damascus (2025/2798(RSP)).