

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002373/24
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Silvia Sardone (PFE)
(31 October 2024)

Subject: The persecution of Baha'is in Iran

Since 1979, the Islamic Republic of Iran has systematically persecuted its largest religious minority, the Baha'is. This state-sponsored policy, articulated in a 1991 Memorandum by Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, outlines the Iranian Government's blatant intention to eradicate the Baha'i faith from the country. A recent Human Rights Watch report highlights the pervasive extent of this persecution, detailing how Baha'is are robbed of essential human rights and civil liberties, including via arbitrary arrests, imprisonment, enforced disappearances, limitations on their freedom of movement, denial of education and employment, prohibition of dignified burials and expropriation of their properties. This landmark report classified the Iranian Government's treatment of its Baha'i population as the crime against humanity of persecution, under international law.

In accordance with the human rights treaties to which the Islamic Republic of Iran is a party, we cannot stay silent.

It is asked to the Vice-President/High Representative: is there any EU strategy in place to urge the Iranian authorities to cease the state-sponsored persecution of the country's largest religious minority?

Submitted: 31.10.2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(4 February 2025)

As part of its comprehensive policy approach towards Iran ⁽¹⁾, the EU has responded strongly on human rights violations and abuses by Iranian authorities, including against the country's ethnic and religious minorities.

The EU is using all diplomatic venues, including multilateral fora, to repeatedly and firmly call on the Iranian authorities to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Iranians, as well as persons belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including the Bahá'ís.

Furthermore, the EU has so far listed a total of 269 individuals and entities under the sanctions regime adopted in response to serious human rights violations in Iran ⁽²⁾.

The EU will continue to use all tools at its disposal and will continue to be a strong supporter of the United Nations accountability mechanisms investigating the alleged human rights violations in Iran, including on the country's ethnic and religious minorities.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/12/12/iran-council-approves-conclusions/>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-iran/#human-rights>