

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003845/25

**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Paolo Inselvini (ECR), Carlo Fidanza (ECR), Nicola Procaccini (ECR), Antonella Sberna (ECR), Șerban Dimitrie
Sturdza (ECR), Sergio Berlato (ECR), Sebastian Tynkynen (ECR), Dominik Tarczyński (ECR), Laurence Trochu
(ECR), Alberico Gambino (ECR), Charlie Weimers (ECR), Beatrice Timgren (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR), Ondřej
Krutílek (ECR), Waldemar Tomaszewski (ECR), Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR), Jacek Ozdoba (ECR), Geadis Geadis (ECR),
Kosma Złotowski (ECR), Nicolas Bay (ECR)
(2 October 2025)**

Subject: Persecution of Christians in Nigeria

Nigeria is currently the country most affected in the world by violence against Christians. Between 2019 and 2023, nearly 17 000 Christians were killed in targeted attacks because of their faith. In just the first seven months of 2025, more than 7 000 victims were reported, with around 7 800 kidnappings. Behind these figures lie destroyed families, razed villages and communities forced to flee.

Parliament's resolution of 8 February 2024 already condemned these massacres. Violence in the region is fuelled by radicalised militias and groups operating with terrorist methods. Religious freedom is a fundamental right and a cornerstone of human dignity. For this reason, the EU cannot limit itself to a partial analysis of the factors at play but must strengthen its diplomatic and protection mechanisms, including through figures such as the Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief outside the EU and the EU Special Representative for Human Rights.

In the light of the above:

1. What measures are being taken to strengthen the protection of vulnerable Christian communities and to promote religious freedom in Nigeria?
2. How is the EU supporting humanitarian initiatives and assistance programmes in the areas most affected by persecution?
3. How is the EU ensuring effective political and diplomatic dialogue with the Nigerian Government to guarantee thorough investigations and criminal accountability for those responsible for the massacres?

Supporter ⁽¹⁾

Submitted: 2.10.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(19 December 2025)**

Nigeria faces systemic insecurity affecting, among others, Christian individuals, communities and places of worship. While not being the sole cause of violence, religion is deeply embedded in national and community identities and influences politics at every level.

Engagement towards freedom of religion or belief is among the EU's strategic priorities. In Nigeria, the EU responds across all communities through humanitarian, development and rights-based actions guided by neutrality and impartiality.

The EU humanitarian assistance amounts to over EUR 46 million in 2025 which is provided to the most vulnerable in areas affected by conflict or violence such as the Northeast and the Northwest and where needs are the most acute. It is channelled to the affected populations regardless of their race, ethnic group, religion, gender, age, nationality or political affiliation.

Under the 'supporting sustainable social protection systems in Nigeria initiative' (EUR 13 million), the EU expands institutional capacity to protect vulnerable groups (women, children, and persons with disabilities) from poverty and exclusion.

In security and governance, the EU Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme (RoLAC II) ⁽¹⁾ integrates freedom of religion or belief and justice reforms.

In addition, the EU is funding prevention and countering of violent extremism projects and cooperates with the National Peace Committee, the National Human Rights Commission and civil society organisations to promote accountability and peacebuilding between various communities.

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/nigeria/eu-partners-launch-rule-law-and-anti-corruption-eu-rolac-ii-programme_en?s=114.

The EU complements its programmes with diplomacy through demarches, senior official meetings and peace dialogues, urging transparent investigations, including into religious-based violence.
