

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004301/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Afroditi Latinopoulou (PFE)
(3 November 2025)

Subject: Continued massacres of Christians in Nigeria and the need for immediate action by the European Union

Recent reports from international and local organisations document a worrying escalation of violence against Christians in Nigeria, which has peaked in recent days. Between 2019 and 2023, it is estimated that more than 17 000 Christians were murdered, while in the first seven months of 2025 alone, there were over 7 000 new killings and thousands of kidnappings. Many attacks target villages and places of worship, leading entire communities to be displaced.

Despite denials by the Nigerian authorities of targeted persecution, evidence points to a systematic campaign of extermination against Christian populations, threatening religious freedom and the stability of the region.

The Vice-President/High Representative is asked:

1. What immediate measures does she intend to take, through the European External Action Service, to protect persecuted Christian communities and ensure accountability for perpetrators?
2. How does she assess the situation of Christian communities in Nigeria in light of these serious human rights violations?
3. Is the Commission considering the possibility of strengthening EU support for organisations working on the ground to protect victims of religious persecution in Nigeria?

Submitted: 3.11.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(26 January 2026)

The security situation, especially in northern Nigeria, is of great concern. The country faces systemic insecurity affecting, among others, Christian individuals, communities and places of worship, even though violence in Nigeria often cuts across ethno-religious boundaries.

The EU strongly condemns the cruel attacks and abductions that have recently taken place, and supports the Nigerian government's efforts to have all hostages safely released.

Over the last years, the EU and its Member States have funded many projects on prevention of conflict, peacebuilding and support to populations affected by violence. In Nigeria, the EU helps people in need and victims of violence regardless of their ethnic, religious or political affiliation.

Following the Yelwata massacre which took place in June 2025, the EU Ambassador to Nigeria visited the victims a few days after the attack.

The EU provided rapid support (EUR 1.75 million), addressing basic needs as well as providing for social protection and durable solutions for internally displaced persons.

The EU remains steadfast in its commitment, with EUR 46.5 million for humanitarian assistance allocated to Nigeria in 2025 through partner organisations working on the ground.

Through various peacebuilding and human rights projects, the EU also aims to foster trust between religious leaders, encouraging interfaith dialogue and community-led reconciliation.

The EU Delegation in Nigeria has been partnering with the National Human Rights Commission and the National Peace Committee. EU-funded events organised by these institutions are aiming to discuss issues such as farmers/herders conflicts, and on a more general note, to establish a constant dialogue on drivers of violence.
