

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001562/26
to the Commission**

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(16 April 2026)

Subject: Respecting fundamental rights in Algeria and applying Article 2 of the EU-Algeria Association Agreement

Since Algeria's independence in 1962, the Algerian authorities have repeatedly infringed fundamental rights, particularly those of certain minorities like the Kabyles and Christians.

In Kabylia, restrictions on freedom of expression and arbitrary arrests targeting political opponents are an everyday occurrence. Freedom of religion is also severely compromised: 47 protestant churches have been closed since 2017, denying tens of thousands of worshippers their freedom of religion. ⁽¹⁾ The situation has been recognised internationally, with Algeria appearing on the Special Watch List of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) since 2021. Journalists and critics of the regime are being prosecuted and imprisoned, as in the case of French journalist Christophe Gleizes. ⁽²⁾

However, Article 2 of the Association Agreement between the European Union and Algeria lists respect for human rights and democratic principles as one of its essential elements.

1. In this context, does the Commission intend to activate the mechanisms set out in this Agreement in the event of a breach of its principles, including by making its application conditional on tangible and verifiable progress?
2. What action does it plan to take to secure the freedom of political prisoners and ensure that the rights of Kabyle and Christian minorities in Algeria are properly respected?

Submitted: 16.4.2026

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

Upholding human rights constitutes a key element of EU-Algeria relations, as enshrined in the Association Agreement ⁽¹⁾ and reinforced in the Partnership Priorities ⁽²⁾. On this basis, the EU monitors developments closely and continues to have regular exchanges on human rights and the rule of law with the Algerian authorities.

Freedom of religion or belief has consistently been part of these exchanges. In particular, the closure of certain Christian places of worship was specifically discussed at the most recent EU-Algeria subcommittee meeting on Political Dialogue, Security and Human Rights ⁽³⁾.

The EU does not envisage the activation of the mechanisms set out in the Association Agreement, which could lead to the suspension of ongoing cooperation with Algeria. Instead, the EU favours frank and constructive discussions and it is committed to support the implementation of political reforms envisaged by the Algerian authorities to enhance the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion or belief.

¹ <https://www.la-croix.com/religion/algerie-les-protestants-contraints-de-se-cacher-pour-prier-20250129>.

² <https://rsf.org/en/petition-we-call-immediate-release-french-sports-journalist-christophe-gleizes>.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:47a10cac-21da-41c6-a038-fee3e7eac72e.0005.02/DOC_1&format=PDF; https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:47a10cac-21da-41c6-a038-fee3e7eac72e.0005.02/DOC_2&format=PDF.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/03/13/eu-algeria/>.

⁽³⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/algeria/european-union-and-algeria_en?s=82.