

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002439/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(13 June 2026)

Subject: Attacks on Christian heritage and community in Ethiopia

According to reports, Ethiopia's Christian heritage is under increasing pressure, through attacks on Christian communities, churches, clergy and believers, as well as through ethno-religious violence and a policy of impunity ⁽¹⁾

<https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/ethiopia/>.

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/freedom-religion-or-belief_en.

In parallel, international organisations record ongoing attacks in regions such as Oromia and Amhara, where churches have been burned, looted or destroyed, and believers and communities are being forcibly displaced ⁽²⁾. The EU has stated that the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief is a key priority of its foreign policy ⁽³⁾.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy assess the situation of Christian and other religious communities in Ethiopia, in particular in areas where attacks on places of worship, worshippers and religious symbols are recorded?
2. Does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to raise the issue of the protection of religious freedom and cultural heritage in the EU-Ethiopia political dialogue?
3. Will the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy call for an independent investigation into attacks on Christian and other religious communities and for those responsible to be held accountable, in particular where inaction or complicity of state authorities is alleged?

Submitted: 13.6.2026

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

The EU is deeply concerned by the conflict situations ongoing in Ethiopia, including reports of attacks on religious and cultural heritage in the Oromia and Amhara regions.

Intentionally attacking places of worship is a crime under international humanitarian law. The vast majority of Ethiopians care deeply about religion, and respect for religious diversity is crucial to the country's unique character.

The promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief is a key priority of EU foreign policy, as set out in the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy ⁽¹⁾ and in the EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief ⁽²⁾.

All persons have the right to practise their faith free from violence, intimidation or discrimination, and persons who change or leave their religion or belief should be equally protected.

The EU condemns all acts of violence targeting religious communities and their places of worship and calls on Ethiopian authorities to investigate incidents thoroughly, bring perpetrators to justice, and end the culture of impunity.

The EU closely monitors the situation on the ground and engages regularly with Ethiopia on human rights issues, including through political dialogue at senior level, as most recently demonstrated by the European External Action Service Political Director's visit in early 2026.

The protection of freedom of religion or belief, intercommunal tolerance, and the rule of law are standing elements of that dialogue.

¹ <https://idicenter.org/article/ethiopias-judeo-christian-heritage-under-attack-part-2>

² <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/ethiopia/>.

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/freedom-religion-or-belief_en.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/Action-Plan-EN_2020-2027.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/137585.pdf>.

The EU intends to continue raising these concerns — including the protection of religious communities and their cultural heritage — in the framework of EU-Ethiopia political and human rights dialogue, consistent with the EU's Council Conclusions on Ethiopia of April 2023 ⁽³⁾.

⁽³⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8610-2023-INIT/en/pdf>.