

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-001088/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Giorgos Georgiou (The Left)
(13 March 2025)

Subject: Mass killings of Christians and Alawites by the jihadist forces that have taken power in Syria

According to news articles and international press reports, in recent weeks, the jihadist forces that seized control of Syria have been engaging in mass killings and acts of terrorism against civilians. The evidence points to ethnic and religious minorities — mainly Christians and Alawites — being targeted, as well as the forces defending the need for a secular democratic state.

Can the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy answer the following:

1. What immediate measures does she intend to take to prevent jihadist forces that took control of the country from continuing their killing spree, which is also prompting new waves of refugees?
2. How, with concrete practical measures, will she ensure that the national dialogue launched at the end of February will fulfil the aspirations of the whole of Syrian society?

Submitted: 13.3.2025

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

On 11 March 2025, the High Representative/Vice-President issued a statement ⁽¹⁾ on behalf of the EU, which condemned in the strongest terms the horrific crimes committed against civilians, including summary killings, many of which were allegedly perpetrated by armed groups supporting the security forces of the transitional authorities.

The EU called for a swift, transparent and impartial investigation to be conducted to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. It welcomed the transitional authorities' commitments, in particular the establishment of an investigative committee.

It further called on the transitional authorities to allow the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic to investigate all violations. Everything must be done to prevent any such crimes from happening again.

The EU continues to call for an end to violence across Syria, and urges all parties to protect Syrians from all ethnic and religious background without discrimination.

In regular contact with transitional authorities and local actors, including civil society, the EU consistently advocates an inclusive, peaceful, Syrian-owned and Syrian-led political transition and has taken note of a number of positive steps taken by the transitional authorities.

The National Dialogue process, begun in February 2025, and the new government appointed end of March 2025, should ensure the transition meets the aspirations of all components of Syrian society.

The EU will continue to support a Syrian-led inclusive transition grounded on the respect of international law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, pluralism and tolerance.

⁽¹⁾ Syria: Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the recent wave of violence, 11 March 2025, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/11/syria-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-recent-wave-of-violence/>