

Question for written answer E-001670/2024

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

Matthieu Valet (Pfe), Nikola Bartůšek (Pfe), Julien Leonardelli (Pfe), Marie-Luce Brasier-Clain (Pfe), Julie Rechagneux (Pfe), Mélanie Disdier (Pfe), Rody Tolassy (Pfe), Pierre-Romain Thionnet (Pfe), António Tânger Corrêa (Pfe), Jordan Bardella (Pfe), Julien Sanchez (Pfe), Philippe Olivier (Pfe), Angéline Furet (Pfe), Marie Dauchy (Pfe), Pierre Pimpie (Pfe), France Jamet (Pfe)

Subject: Attacks on Bangladesh's Hindu minority

On 5 August 2024, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, was ousted after protesters stormed the parliament and government palace. China, the United States and the European Union¹ welcomed the interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus.

Jamaat-e-Islami, the main Islamist party, strongly supported the uprising. The terrorist organisation Al-Qaida in the Indian Sub-continent (AQIS) describes it as a 'significant victory for Islamists and jihadists in the region'². On 27 August, the interim government ordered the release of Jasimuddin Rahmani, who leads a terrorist group linked to Al-Qaeda³.

Since then, the Hindu minority, making up 8 % of the population, has been targeted by suspected Islamist groups. Many of their temples, shops and houses have been burned down⁴.

1. Is the Commission worried about Bangladesh becoming a safe haven for armed Islamism, jeopardising regional security and global counter-terrorism efforts?
2. Will it take steps to condemn the attacks against Bangladesh's Hindu minority, and reconsider its support for the interim government?

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¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/bangladesh-statement-high-representative-new-interim-government_en.

² <https://swarajyamag.com/world/al-qaeda-wing-aqis-congratulates-bangladesh-for-toppling-hasina-government-urges-islamists-to-push-for-sharia-rule>.

³ <https://theprint.in/world/who-is-jashimuddin-rahmani-pro-al-qaeda-chief-of-islamist-outfit-freed-by-interim-bangladesh-govt/2240641/>.

⁴ <https://www.businessstoday.in/world/story/genocide-of-hindus-bangladeshi-islamists-attack-minority-population-burn-houses-kidnap-women-as-the-country-descends-into-unholy-madness-440252-2024-08-06>.