

**Question for written answer E-005488/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Michaela Šojdrová (PPE)**

Subject: Introduction of an International Day Commemorating Victims and Survivors of Religious Persecution

We witnessed the horrible events that took place on 3 August 2014, when ISIS/Daesh attacked Sinjar, killing many men and abducting thousands of women for forced labour and sex slavery. That event marked not only the beginning of the genocide against Yazidis, but also against other Christian communities in the Middle East, aimed at the complete annihilation of Christianity from that region. This is religious persecution. Such crimes should encourage us to take on an active role in stopping religious persecution, as well as to support the establishment of an International Day Commemorating Victims and Survivors of Religious Persecution. It is necessary to introduce this special day consecrated directly to those victims and survivors that have suffered persecution because of their religion.

Now is the time for action because our failure to solve this issue today may lead to more people being subjected to religious persecution tomorrow.

1. Does the Commission support the consecration of 3 August as an International Day Commemorating Victims and Survivors of Religious Persecution?
2. What is the Commission doing in order to prevent similar crimes in the future?