

**Question for written answer E-011985/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Wave of mass detentions of lawyers and human rights activists in China

Following the recent approval of China's National Security Law, the Chinese authorities are carrying out massive detentions of human rights lawyers and activists in the country.

According to the Hong Kong-based NGO Chinese Human Rights Defenders, more than 106 lawyers, legal staff and human rights defenders from 15 cities and provinces have been detained, summoned to police stations and interrogated, and sometimes even taken to unknown whereabouts, on suspicion of 'violation of the law'. Moreover, Chinese police can hold a suspect for 37 days, even before the Public Prosecutor's office has approved formal detention.

Given that this is the worst repression since the 1990s, according to many international organisations such as Human Rights Watch, what practical measures will the VP/HR take in the face of the alarming increase in repression in the country and the extreme vulnerability of human rights lawyers and activists?