

**Question for written answer E-001372/2016  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Wim van de Camp (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Persecution of Christians in China; detention of minister Gu Yuese

Last week Chinese Christian minister Gu Yuese (of an officially state approved large Chinese church community) was arrested by the Chinese authorities in the province of Zhejiang, on suspicion of corruption. It is unclear if the allegations are justified. This arrest follows a series of policy measures by the Chinese Government over the last couple of years to repress the growth of Christianity in China. In civil society, universities and, recently, (state-approved) churches, the space to act independently from the Chinese Government seems to be narrowing. Since 2013 the province of Zhejiang has had approximately 1500 crosses removed from the roofs of 'state-approved' churches. In view of these developments, I have the following questions:

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that Chinese Christians in general and in the Zhejiang province in particular are being repressed?
2. If so, how is the Commission addressing the issue of repression of the growing Christian population in China by the Chinese Government, in particular in the province of Zhejiang?
3. Are freedom of religion and other basic human rights included in the negotiations between China and the EU on the trade agreement? How are these values being secured and actively promoted in the final text?