

Question for written answer E-002809/2020

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Repression encouraged by the Chinese authorities in Tibet, on the pretext of tackling COVID-19

The measures to control COVID-19 promoted by the Chinese government have been used to increase the persecution and repression of opponents of the regime throughout the territory. Tibet is a heavily persecuted region and, in the current circumstances, its population is even more exposed to abuses and human rights violations.

At the beginning of the year, China took advantage of the coronavirus crisis to unleash disproportionate repression, mainly on the borders of Tibet, with the campaign '1 million police for 10 million homes'.

Recently, the authorities in eastern Tibet and the Tibet Autonomous Region have threatened anyone who spreads 'rumours', 'information that endangers or undermines national security or unity' or promotes 'attacks' on the authorities' management of the crisis.

However, there is real concern about the systematic persecution and deliberate muzzling of the Tibetan people for warning about the spread of the virus in the region and sharing information about the health situation.

The lack of information is a stark example of China's use of the health crisis to 'stabilise' the occupation and consolidate power.

Will the High Representative / Vice President consider raising with the Chinese government the serious human rights violations reported in relation to the disproportionate and repressive measures imposed in the Tibet Autonomous Region?