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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.8.2020)

The EU has been closely following the case of Swedish citizen Gui Minhai in the past years, including by calling for his release during past United Nations Human Rights Council meetings¹ and by reacting to the sentence against him with a High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) Spokesperson statement.²

More recently, on the occasion of the Strategic Dialogue with State Councillor/Foreign Minister Wang Yi held on 9 June 2020, the HR/VP raised the case of Gui Minhai, recalling the EU expectation that Mr Gui would be provided consular assistance and that the Chinese authorities would cooperate with Sweden in full transparency. The case of Gui Minhai was also raised by EU leaders during the 22nd EU-China Summit held on 22 June 2020, thus confirming the EU firm commitment to continue supporting the Swedish authorities in their efforts to secure Mr Gui's release.

The HR/VP made reference to situations and cases related to civil and political rights and to forced disappearances during his Strategic Dialogue with Foreign Minister Wang Yi. In the framework of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, the European External Action Service representatives repeatedly asked China to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights without further delay.

¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-geneva/75884/hrc43-item-4-human-rights-situations-require-councils-attention-eu-statement_en

² https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/china/75171/china-statement-spokesperson-case-gui-minhai_en