

Question for written answer E-000378/2022

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: Safeguard Defenders' latest report on involuntary returns of Chinese overseas nationals

According to a report by Safeguard Defenders¹, since 2014 some 10 000 Chinese overseas nationals have been forced into returning to China using one of three types of coercion: threats to family back in China, targeting the individual overseas, or kidnapping. The report states that the operations are becoming more widespread and constitute a cornerstone in the expansion of China's transnational repression, but that the phenomenon is little known in the West.

In light of the findings of this report:

1. Is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) aware of these operations, which reportedly also take place in the EU?
2. What steps will the VP/HR take to ensure that these operations do not take place on European soil?

¹ <https://safeguarddefenders.com/sites/default/files/pdf/INvoluntary%20Returns.pdf>