

**Question for written answer E-001962/2023**

**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: EU response to the arrest of peaceful protesters in Hong Kong

On 3 and 4 June 2023, police in Hong Kong arrested several individuals, including opposition leaders, who were peacefully commemorating the anniversary of the brutal repression of the Tiananmen Square protests<sup>1</sup>.

The arrests were made on charges of ‘breaching public peace’, in line with the infamous national security law that was approved by Hong Kong’s authorities on 30 June 2020. This event is only the latest in a series of appalling human rights violations that have led to the incarceration of at least 230 people since the aforementioned law was passed<sup>2</sup>.

Amnesty International’s interim Deputy Regional Director for Research, Montse Ferrer, stated that the recent crackdown on protests represents a ‘shameful campaign to stop people marking this anniversary [that] mirrors the censorship of the Chinese central government and is an insult to those killed in the Tiananmen crackdown’<sup>3</sup>.

- 1) Is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy planning to release a public statement of condemnation?
- 2) What diplomatic response does he intend to put in place in light of these violations of freedom of expression?
- 3) Is the EU Delegation to Hong Kong and Macao planning to take steps towards facilitating the release of illegally and arbitrarily detained dissidents?

Submitted: 19.6.2023

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-65803053>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/landmark-hong-kong-national-security-trial-starts-2-years-after-arrests-2023-02-05/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/06/hong-kong-tiananmen-anniversary-arrests-highlight-deepening-repression/>.