

To the attention of:

President of the European Council, Mr. Charles Michel
President of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen
Members of the European Council
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Mr Josep Borrell

Subject: Suspension of extradition treaties with the People's Republic of China

19 May 2021

Your Excellencies,

We the undersigned, Hong Kongers, Uyghurs, Tibetans, Taiwanese and Chinese human rights activists living in Europe, appeal to you to undertake urgent coordinated action to suspend all Bilateral Extradition Agreements between EU Member States and the People's Republic of China.

EU Institutions have on multiple occasions deplored the Chinese Communist Party's increasing crack-down on human rights and democracy activists within its borders. Yet, while such calls go manifestly unheeded by the Chinese Government, there are concrete actions the European Union and its Member States can undertake to protect those that had no choice but to flee certain persecution.

Not only do the Bilateral Extradition Treaties with the PRC legitimize a judicial system that does not respect any of the due process standards prescribed by international law, they play a key role in the CCP's effort to export its regime of political terror overseas as they effectively incite fear and caution into our hearts and minds.

We take little comfort in guarantees from Member States that they will not permit the abuse of such extradition agreements to muzzle political opponents. Recent extradition cases in Sweden, Poland and Spain have shown a dangerous trend where the Chinese Government has sought to circumvent provisions to stop political persecution by demanding extradition for financial crimes, accusing activists and dissidents of financial fraud. Of equal concern is Beijing's use of the One China policy as a backdoor to extradite Taiwanese citizens to be jailed on the mainland.

Even EU citizens are not exempt from the threat of extradition. Four Danish citizens, including two elected Members of Parliament, have been expressly warned by their own Intelligence Services to avoid travel to fellow EU Member States with outstanding extradition treaties with the PRC.

As activists in exile, in the safe haven of Europe, these active extradition treaties are of great and immediate concern. Under current judicial review procedures for extradition requests they not only present a potential threat to our freedom of movement within the European Union, but to our freedom of association and freedom of expression, as Beijing may seek our extradition for statements we make in Europe.

We therefore urge the ten EU Member States to suspend or revoke these Bilateral Extradition Treaties with the People's Republic of China to effectively protect the freedom of movement, association and speech for all.

We pray that unlike your calls to Beijing, this call to actively uphold and fully defend our shared values within Europe does not go unheeded.

Yours sincerely,

Abdugheni Atush, Belgium Uyghur Association, Uyghur activist in exile

Abdullam Imerov, Belgium Uyghur Association, Uyghur activist in exile

Ablikim Raziev, Belgium Uyghur Association, Uyghur activist in exile

Adil Çinar, Secretary of the Dutch Uyghur Human Rights Foundation, Uyghur activist in exile

Adiljan Abdurihim, Secretary for the Norwegian Uyghur Committee

Ai Weiwei, Activist and artist

Alan Li Tung-sing, Hong Kong activist in exile

Alerk Ablikim, Political Secretary of Free Uyghur Netherlands, Uyghur activist in exile

Angela Gui, Activist, daughter of imprisoned Hong Kong bookseller, Swedish citizen Gui Minhai

Bahtiyar Ømer, Chairman for the Norwegian Uyghur Committee

Choezin Khangsar, Tibetan Youth Association in Europe

Dalha Kharsar, Vice-President, Tibetan Youth Association in Europe

Dolkun Isa, World Uyghur Congress President, Uyghur activist in exile

Ekber Tursun, Belgium Uyghur Association, Uyghur activist in exile

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Finn Lau, Founder Hong Kong Liberty, Hong Kong activist in exile

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Jessica Chiu, Chairman for the Hong Kong Committee in Norway

Jim Wong, Co-Founder of Hong Kong Link, Hong Kong activist in exile

Kalsang Dechen, President, Tibetan Community of Italy

Karma Choekyi, President, Tibetan Community of Switzerland and Liechtenstein

Lobsang Phunstok, President, Tibetan Community of Germany

Magnus Baur, Chairman for the Norwegian-Taiwan Friendship Association

Merethe Lind Johansen, Executive Officer for the Norwegian Tibet Committee

Muetter Iliqad, Head of Communications for the Norwegian Uyghur Committee

Nathan Law, former pro-democracy lawmaker, Hong Kong activist in exile

Nurahmet Borhan, Belgium Uyghur Association, Uyghur activist in exile

Qurban Sakiev, Belgium Uyghur Association, Uyghur activist in exile

Rahima Mahmut, World Uyghur Congress UK Project Director, Uyghur activist in exile

Ray Wong Toi-yeung, Founder of Haven Assistance, Hong Kong activist in exile

Shao Jiang, student leader during Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 in exile

Simon Cheng Man-kit, Founder of Haven Assistance, Founder of Hongkongers in Britain

Sonam Alessandro Marsen, Tibetan Youth Association in Europe

Tashi Samdup, Tibetan activist in Italy

Tashi Shitsetsang, President, Tibetan Youth Association in Europe

Tenzin Choezin Shitsetsang, Tibetan Youth Association in Europe

Tenzin Jigme, President Tibetan Community of Czech Republic

Tenzin Wangdu, Vice-President, Tibetan Community of Switzerland and Liechtenstein

Tenzin Sonam Netsang, Tibetan Youth Association in Europe

Tenzing Dhokhar, Tibetan Youth Association in Europe

Tenzyn Zöchbauer, Executive Director of Tibet Initiative Deutschland

Tsering Namgyal, President Tibetan Community of Austria

Tsering Wangdu, Tibetan activist in Switzerland

Tsering Youdon Marsen, President Swiss Tibetan Women Association on behalf of all the members of the Swiss Tibetan Women's Association

Tseten Rungwatsang, Tibetan Youth Association in Europe

Wayne Chan Ka-kui, Hong Kong activist in exile

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