

EMBARGOED UNTIL 02.00 (GMT) MONDAY 15/11/2021

**PARLIAMENTARIANS AND ACTIVISTS IN EXILE RAISE GLOBAL ALARM AT CHINA
INTERPOL ELECTION BID**

Parliamentarians and activists from around the world have launched a global campaign to oppose the candidacy of Hu Binchen, a Deputy Director General at China's Ministry of Public Security, to the INTERPOL Executive Committee at its General Assembly session later this month.

50 legislators from the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) have penned a joint letter to their governments raising alarm at the PRC's moves to gain influence over the global policing body. The letter references recent attempts by the Chinese government to use the INTERPOL Red Notice system to target Uyghur activists living in exile and argues that Hu Binchen's election would give Beijing a 'green light' to continue using INTERPOL as "a vehicle for the PRC government's repressive policies."

The signatories span 20 countries across four continents, with prominent figures including German Green Reinhard Bütikofer MEP, Chair of the European Parliament's China Delegation; Sir Iain Duncan Smith, former UK Conservative Party leader; Australian Labor Senator Kimberley Kitching and former US Presidential candidate Senator Marco Rubio.

The moves were accompanied by a separate letter from 20 activists to INTERPOL Member States warning that Hu Binchen's election would have "grave consequences for the safety and wellbeing of Chinese, Hong Kongers, Taiwanese and Chinese human rights activists living outside China as well as Tibetan and Uyghur diasporas." Prominent signatories include World Uyghur Congress President Dolkun Isa, himself subject to an INTERPOL Red Notice by the PRC government for nearly two decades; and former Hong Kong legislators Nathan Law and Ted Hui, both of whom are wanted by the Chinese government for alleged violations under the city's so-called National Security Law.

Hu Binchen's election bid coincides with the release of a new report into the Chinese government's efforts to hide the extent of its 'long arm policing abroad'. The report, published by human rights advocacy group Safeguard Defenders, reveals for the first time how the Chinese government is refraining from making its INTERPOL Red Notice requests public, putting thousands of activists and dissidents at risk of arrest, detention and extradition to China. The report also examines the role of Hu Binchen's International Cooperation Department in the PRC's pursuit of alleged 'fugitives' abroad through legal and illegal means.

Notes:

- Copies of the joint letters from parliamentarians and activists with full lists of signatories are attached.
- The 89th INTERPOL General Assembly Session will take place on the 23rd - 25th of November this year. Candidates to the Executive Committee are elected for a three year term.
- The Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) is a cross-party network of over 200 parliamentarians working to reform the approach of democratic countries towards P. R. China. More information is available at ipac.global or twitter.com/@ipacglobal.
- The Safeguard Defenders report 'No Room to Run' will be available to view at <https://safeguarddefenders.com/en> on publication and can be available ahead of date upon request to Laura Harth at laura@safeguarddefenders.com.
- For press queries please contact Andrew Yeh of the IPAC Secretariat andrew@ipac.global +447504582673

Hon Karen Andrews MP, Minister for Home Affairs (Australia)
Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety (Canada)
Annelies Verlinden, Minister of the Interior (Belgium)
Jan Hamáček, Minister of the Interior (Czechia)
Kaare Dybvad, Minister of the Interior (Denmark)
Commissioner Ylva Johansson, Commissioner for Home Affairs (European Union)
Minister Gérald Darmanin, Minister of the Interior (France)
Horst Seehofer, Minister of the Interior, Building and Community (Germany)
Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs (India)
Helen McEntee, Minister for Justice (Ireland)
Satoshi Ninoyu, Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission (Japan)
Agnė Bilotaitė, Minister of the Interior (Lithuania)
Ferdinand Grapperhaus II, Minister of Justice and Security (Netherlands)
Hon Poto Williams, Minister of Police (New Zealand)
Mikael Damberg, Minister of the Interior (Sweden)
Karin Keller-Sutter, Head of the Department of Justice and Police (Switzerland)
Rt Hon Priti Patel, Home Secretary (United Kingdom)
Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security (United States)

Subject: Candidacy of Hu Binchen (P.R. China) to INTERPOL's Executive Committee

15 November 2021

Dear Ministers,

We write to you to state our opposition to the candidacy of Hu Binchen to the election of the INTERPOL Executive Committee at the upcoming 89th General Assembly Session on the 23rd - 25th of November.

The government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) has repeatedly abused the INTERPOL Red Notice to persecute dissidents in exile. Most recently, Uyghur activist Idris Hasan was arrested in Morocco following a since-deleted Red Notice filed by the PRC government. At the time of writing, Hasan could still face extradition to the PRC where he is likely to be a victim of arbitrary detention and torture. Uyghur leader Dolkun Isa was arrested en-route to addressing the Italian Senate following a Red Notice issued by the PRC, one which remained in place for nearly 20 years.

The PRC government also has a history of leveraging INTERPOL committee positions to exert undue influence on the organisation. The election of Meng Hongwei to the position of INTERPOL President in 2016 reportedly saw attempts to interfere with the functioning and political neutrality of the INTERPOL General Secretariat. As the PRC government seeks to use INTERPOL as a cover for its repressive policies abroad these attempts to exert undue influence will only increase.

By electing Hu Binchen to the Executive Committee, the General Assembly would be giving a green light to the PRC government to continue their misuse of INTERPOL and would place the tens of thousands of Hong Konger, Uyghur, Tibetan, Taiwanese and Chinese dissidents living abroad at even graver risk.

Allowing INTERPOL to be used as a vehicle for the PRC government's repressive policies does great harm to its international standing. We call on you to oppose the candidacy of Hu Binchen and to support efforts to reform the INTERPOL Red Notice system to protect victims of political persecution worldwide.

We will be following the upcoming General Assembly closely and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

MEMBERS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ALLIANCE ON CHINA

Senator Eric Abetz (Australia)

Kevin Andrews MP (Australia)

Senator Alex Antic (Australia)

George Christensen MP (Australia)

Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

(Australia)

Senator Kimberley Kitching (Australia)

Georges Dallemagne MP (Belgium)

Garnett Genuis MP (Canada)

Senator Pavel Fischer (Czechia)

Uffe Elbaek MP (Denmark)

Reinhard Bütikofer MEP (European Parliament)

Engin Eroglu MEP (European Parliament)

Sandro Gozi MEP (European Parliament)

David Lega MEP (European Parliament)

Miriam Lexmann MEP (European Parliament)

Senator Olivier Cadic (France)

Senator H el ene Conway Mouret (France)

Ms. Fr ed erique Dumas (France)

Senator Andr e Gattolin (France)

Michael Brand MdB (Germany)

Ninong Ering MLA (India)

Sujeet Kumar MP (India)

Amar Patnaik MP (India)

Senator Michael McDowell (Ireland)

Senator David Norris (Ireland)

Shiori Yamao (Japan)

Dovil e  sakalien e MP (Lithuania)

Sjoerd Sjoerdsma MP (Netherlands)

Tom van der Lee MP (Netherlands)

Simon O'Connor MP (New Zealand)

Louisa Wall MP (New Zealand)

David Josefsson MP (Sweden)

Elisabet Lann (Sweden)

Nicolas Walder MP (Switzerland)

Lord (David) Alton (United Kingdom)

Chris Bryant MP (United Kingdom)

Nusrat Ghani MP (United Kingdom)

Damian Green MP (United Kingdom)

Geraint Davies MP (United Kingdom)

Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan-Smith MP (United Kingdom)

Rosie Cooper MP (United Kingdom)

Tim Loughton MP (United Kingdom)

Craig Mackinlay MP (United Kingdom)

Representative Mike Gallagher (United States)

Senator Marco Rubio (United States)

LETTER ENDS

To the attention of Interpol Member States

Subject: Candidacy of Hu Binchen (China) to INTERPOL's Executive Committee

15 November 2021

Your Excellencies,

We, the undersigned representatives of civil society and non-governmental organisations working on human rights issues, appeal to you to refrain from voting for Hu Binchen as a delegate to the INTERPOL Executive Committee during the upcoming 89th General Assembly

session. As activists in exile who are particularly vulnerable to the Chinese Government's attempts to persecute dissidents abroad, we fear the potential election of Hu Binchen would have grave consequences for the safety and wellbeing of Chinese, Hong Kongers, Taiwanese and Chinese human rights activists living outside China as well as Tibetan and Uyghur diasporas.

It is inappropriate for serious abusers of INTERPOL to be given prominent positions to lead it. China's misuse of INTERPOL Red Notices as a tool to forcibly return dissidents is well-documented. Prominent examples are the cases of Uyghur activists Dolkun Isa, who was subject to a Chinese Red notice for almost 20 years before it was deleted in 2018, and Idris Hasan, who was arrested in Morocco in July this year on the basis of a now-deleted Chinese Red Notice, but continues to face extradition to China.

Hu Binchen's candidacy further highlights long-standing concerns about China using leadership positions to gain influence in the organization, which in the past has damaged its reputation and reportedly threatened its political neutrality. Given this history, the candidacy of Hu Binchen is particularly worrying, as he has been known as the right-hand man of Meng Hongwei during his Presidency.

Finally, we are highly alarmed by the integrity of INTERPOL's electoral processes, as there seems to be no vetting of candidates. Hu Binchen, as Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department at China's Ministry of Public Security since 2014, has played a leading role in strengthening China's security cooperation with various countries such as Malaysia, Turkey, and Cambodia, who have forcibly deported Uyghurs to China in recent years in clear violation of international law.

In light of the above, we reiterate that Hu Binchen's candidacy and persona is exemplary of China's attempts to abuse multilateral institutions for its own repressive interests. As activists vulnerable to this repression, we urge you to uphold the spirit of INTERPOL's Charter and join us in our opposition to Hu Binchen's candidacy.

Yours sincerely,

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

Assal Khamraeva, World Uyghur Congress France Representative, Uyghur activist in Exile

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

Gheyyur Qurban, World Uyghur Congress Berlin, Uyghur activist in exile

Rushan Abbas, Campaign for Uyghurs Executive Director, Uyghur activist in exile

Zumretay Arkin, World Uyghur Congress Program and Advocacy Manager, Uyghur activist in exile

Ray Wong Toi-yeung, Hong Kong activist in exile, based in Germany

Glacier Kwong Chung-ching, Hong Kong activist in exile, based in Germany

Finn Lau, Founder of Hong Kong Liberty, based in the UK

Sunny Cheung Kwan-yang, Advisor of Hong Kong Democracy Council, based in the US

Alex Chow, Board Chair of Hong Kong Democracy Council, based in the US

Brian Leung Kai-ping, Executive director of Hong Kong Democracy Council, based in the US

Muetter Iliqud, The Norwegian Uyghur Committee, Uyghur activist in exile

Adiljan Abdurehim, The Norwegian Uyghur Committee, Uyghur activist in exile

Magnus Bauer, The Norwegian Taiwanese Friendship Association

William Lee, Member of Stand with Hong Kong at Japan, based in Japan

Nathan Law Kwun-chung, Hong Kong activist in exile, based in the UK

Ted Hui Chi-fung, Former member of Hong Kong Legislative Council, based in Australia

Alan Li Tung-sing, Hong Kong activist in exile, based in the UK

Wayne Chan Ka-kui, Hong Kong activist in exile, based in the UK