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EICC-2022

Brussels, 3 October 2022

Mr. Josep Borrell
EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and
Vice-President of the European Commission
Brussels

Dear High Representative, Vice-President Mr. Borrell,

Re: Human Rights Violations in China: Bringing Beijing to Book

On 31st August, the outgoing UN human rights commissioner, Michelle Bachelet, issued a damning report claiming there was clear evidence of crimes against humanity committed by China during its suppression of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province. The Report found evidence of systemic discrimination, mass arbitrary detention, torture, and sexual and gender-based violence. The Report will go down in the annals of United Nation's history as one of the boldest steps ever taken by the UN Human Rights Body on the human rights violations in China. We are glad that the European Union welcomed the release of the assessment report

It is no secret that the People's Republic of China (PRC) is an authoritarian state in which the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is the paramount authority. PRC is attempting to transform human rights into an instrument of 21st century global authoritarianism and is engaged in strategically promoting an illiberal doctrine of human rights. By undertaking efforts around the world to socialize other actors into its preferred human rights norms, China is mounting a serious challenge to human rights as we all know.

Dismissing international concern, China has continued to deny charges in the Uyghur matter, such as "ethnic cleansing" or even "racial discrimination" because it has always officially maintained that it is only engaged in anti-terror or counter-insurgency operations, as if such gross mass violations of human rights are permitted by international law. The continuing detention of an entire ethnic minority in camp-like and slave labour conditions cannot but be called a massive, ongoing, and flagrant violation of basic human rights. To label this as "propaganda" is itself an act of State "counter-propaganda" - an act of a superpower hegemony which adds insult to injury. Atrocities of Uyghur Muslims is a 21st century cultural genocide and this cannot be allowed to continue.

Promoting fundamental freedoms and universal rights has been a key tenet of EU's foreign policy and serves its global interests. This is especially the case vis-à-vis China. A coherent and firm EU policy that vigorously promotes human rights enhances EU's security and economic interests. In contrast, a weak human rights policy toward China that side-lines these issues give Chinese leaders an even freer hand to repress their own population.

As China's ruling Communist Party will begin its 20th Party Congress on October 16, it is important that European Union, the largest trading partner of China, conveys to the Chinese government that it cannot escape tough EU's censure and sanctions over its human rights violation and EU will not turn a blind eye to China's crime against humanity. Chinese President Xi Jinping has identified Western political values and institutions as the principal ideological threat, and it is therefore important for EU to stand up to its values and democratic strength.

No state should be above the law. China now having confidence in its technological surveillance is moving into the next phase of its repressive and authoritative policy which is of Biosecurity. Earlier, China used biological means to sterilize thousands of Uyghurs Muslims, which has shown horrific results. Now there are reports of arbitrary collection of DNA from residents in several towns and villages throughout Tibet.

The communist party government has used every form of violence to gain, retain and expand its power. The atrocities on Tibetan Buddhists, repression of Uighur Muslims and choking the voice of dissent in Hong Kong are well known to the world. The communist government violates the human rights with impunity in the form of privacy breach, arbitrary arrests, restricted freedom of expression, association and profession of religion, maltreatment in custody including abortion, torture and forced sterilization. Not surprisingly, Chinese government sees human rights as the existential threat.

It is no secret that President "She" Jinping and his government are assaulting human rights on a scale unprecedented in decades. Actions and responses by the European Parliament and European Commission will be critical to halting – and possibly reversing – this crisis. Over the past forty-seven years of EU-China relations, many European foreign policy experts did not accurately assess the PRC's intentions as European policymakers were told time and again that one day PRC would become a “responsible stakeholder” once a sufficient level of economic modernization was achieved. This has not happened and cannot happen so long as the CCP rules China. The assumption that trade and foreign capital would transform China into a more open and democratic society has been replaced by a disillusioned realization that its rise as a superpower is reshaping the international order.

We urge EU to continue to work closely with partners and the international community to hold China accountable. Given China's belligerence, Europe India Chamber of Commerce calls for an effective EU mechanism to address the Chinese government's human rights violations and urge you to take decisive action to achieve this goal. The escalating and egregious abuses by the Chinese government as disclosed by the UNHCR Report, must become one of the priority topics of discussion with Chinese government, and should be given credibility through policy actions.

Because of ineffective approaches and low political commitment, human rights are a marginalized issue in some EU member countries' China policy and an afterthought to commercial interests. Some European policymakers have attempted to compartmentalize their approach to China, keeping human rights separate from commercial and other interests. This

does little to promote EU values, and it only seems to encourage more assertive and coercive behaviour by China.

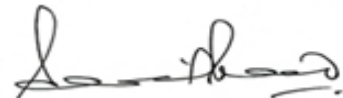
To honour those all who have been persecuted, EU must strongly renew its commitment to speaking out against China's human rights. If EU does not speak out because of trade and commercial interest, then it loses all moral authorities to speak out on human rights violations any place in the world. It's a challenge to Europe's values and conscience.

The EU defines China as a "systemic rival" and an "economic competitor". In our view, China is not purely a trade partner, a competitor, or a challenger; it is all of them at once, and in one package. China is a currency manipulator and has mastered the art of unfair trade practices. Intellectual property theft is China's most blatant, lucrative, and consistent act of economic warfare. China represents threat to established liberal world order and has become the biggest threat to world peace for many decades. Effective management of this complex relationship will require EU policymakers to move beyond the simplistic thinking of China solely as a rival or enemy. EU policy makers will need to abandon notions of collapsing China's governance anytime soon and they will need to craft responsible and effective policies tailored to the China that exists today and the challenges it poses to EU's interests and values every day.

Sir, now it is for the EU to decide how it plays the "Chinese Checkers" boldly with all the democratic strength and political will it has in its arsenal.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Secretary General

Cc: Ms. Roberta Metsola, President, European Parliament

Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President and EU Commissioner for Trade, European Commission