

Statement by the Inter-Parliamentary Group on Tibet in the European Parliament on the Mass Arrest of Peaceful Tibetan Protesters

The Inter-Parliamentary Group for Tibet in the European Parliament is deeply concerned by the reported arrest of approximately 80 Tibetans and communications blackout following a peaceful protest against illegal goldmining in Kashi, Kham, in eastern Tibet.

These protests reflect deep and legitimate concerns over environmental destruction, the violation of community rights, and the long-term impact of extractive activities on livelihoods, water sources, and cultural heritage. The criminalisation of Tibetans for peacefully defending their land and environment constitutes a serious violation of fundamental rights, including the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and environmental protection.

We condemn heavy-handed method used to prevent residents from exercising their fundamental rights and call on the authorities of the People's Republic of China to exercise restraint and to immediately de-escalate the situation. All individuals detained solely for peacefully exercising their fundamental rights must be released without delay. The use of mass arrests and coercive measures against non-violent protesters is unacceptable and further undermines trust and stability in the region.

We further urge the PRC authorities to ensure accountability for the reported crackdown, including, by conducting transparent and independent investigations into the actions of security forces and local officials. Meaningful consultation with affected Tibetan communities and respect for environmental and human rights standards are essential to prevent further escalation.

The European Parliament has consistently raised concerns about the deteriorating human rights situation in Tibet. We reaffirm our solidarity with the Tibetan people and reiterate our call on the Chinese authorities to uphold their obligations under international human rights law, protect environmental defenders, and respect the rights of Tibetans to safeguard their land, culture, and way of life.

Members of the European Parliament:

Dainius Žalimas, Lithuania
Co-Chair, Inter-Parliamentary Group for Tibet

Hannes Heide, Austria
Co-Chair, Inter-Parliamentary Group for Tibet

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