

Question for written answer E-000218/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Chinese occupation of Tibet

With regard to the ongoing Chinese occupation of Tibet, it has been reported that more than one million Tibetans have died as a result of Chinese policy in the area. There have been widespread human rights abuses, unlawful incarceration, political, cultural and religious oppression and, in some cases, actions in the area have been described as cultural genocide.

This is of course a complex issue with the territory concerned still disputed. However, can the VP/HR outline what efforts the EU is making to eradicate reported human rights abuses in the region?

Can the VP/HR outline what efforts are being made to find a solution to the ongoing occupation?

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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini
(15.3.2016)

The Human Rights situation in Tibet is raised systematically with the Chinese authorities in the context of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue. This was the case in Brussels on 8 December 2014 and in Beijing on 30 November 2015. More specifically on Tibet, the EU asked about measures intended to address deep-rooted grievances, including the lack of freedom to practice their own religion and culture, that have led some Tibetans to resort to self-immolations.

In September 2013, the first visit to China of the EUSR for Human Rights, included a 5-day visit to Qinghai and the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). EUSR Lambrinidis met with a number of Officials, as well as a broad cross-section of Chinese civil society, including Tibetan officials, herdsmen, farmers, monks, university students. He also met teachers and pupils at a kindergarten. During his second visit (7-14 November 2015), the EUSR followed up with questions to the Chinese authorities about recent trends in monasteries and the circumstances of those surviving self-immolations, their families and communities.

Finally, the EU systematically raises human rights situation in China during the regular sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, with specific reference to Tibet and Xinjiang.