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HIGH REPRESENTATIVE
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To all MEPs signatory to the letter on “Tibet's Panchen Lama - Political prisoner for 25 years”

Honourable Members,

Thank you for your letter of 24 April concerning the anniversary of the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. The European Union has raised this case with Chinese authorities on several occasions, enquiring about Gedhun Choekyi Nyima's place of residence and living conditions, and requesting to meet him. Unfortunately, these requests have been dismissed.

The European Union has also regularly expressed its concerns on restrictions on freedom of religion or belief and has called on China to respect the rights of persons belonging to minorities especially in Xinjiang and Tibet. This position was raised bilaterally in contacts with Chinese authorities and repeatedly expressed publicly in international fora, most recently in the EU statement on situations that require the Council's attention at the UN Human Rights Council¹ on 10 March.

In the framework of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, the European Union has consistently expressed the clear expectation that China will respect the succession of the Dalai Lama in accordance with Tibetan Buddhism norms. This position was also recalled during the past meeting on 1 April 2019.

The European Union is committed to continue expressing its position on Freedom of Religion or Belief in relation to Tibetan communities and to reiterate its enquiries on the case of the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, with Chinese authorities as part of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue as well as in other bilateral meetings.

Yours sincerely,



Josep Borrell Fontelles

¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-geneva/75884/hrc43-item-4-human-rights-situations-require-councils-attention-eu-statement_en