

**Question for written answer E-014395/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Marc Tarabella (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Trial of female pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong

China's considerable progress towards reducing poverty and facilitating access to education for women and girls has been undermined by intimidation, bullying and imprisonment of female human rights activists. It is paradoxical that the Chinese authorities stress the importance of women's fundamental rights on the international stage and yet continue to imprison the women fighting for them.

As the High Representative will be aware, eight female protesters from mainland China who supported last year's pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong are about to be tried. These people face up to 15 years in prison simply for having exercised their right to peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression.

Considering the urgency of the situation, would the High Representative raise this issue at one of the numerous meetings held between the Commission and the Chinese authorities, and stress the importance of human rights, of which the Commission is a leading advocate?