

**Question for written answer**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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Subject: 34th birthday of the Panchen Lama

On the occasion of the 34th birthday of the 11th Panchen Lama, the second most important religious figure in Tibetan Buddhism, we write to you to express our concern regarding his abduction by the PRC authorities on May 17, 1995.

28 years after his abduction, the PRC authorities continue to deny members of the international community and Tibetans access to the Panchen Lama. The Chinese authorities have not provided proof of life of the Panchen Lama, have not accounted for his whereabouts and have hindered him from exercising his fundamental freedoms.

The abovementioned abduction raises concerns regarding the safety of other central figures of Tibetan Buddhism, such as His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

Thus, we would like to ask the HR/VP the following questions:

1. Has the HR/VP discussed the disappearance of the 11th Panchen Lama with his Chinese counterparts at any point in the past?
2. Will the HR/VP bring up the enforced disappearance during the upcoming EU-China strategic dialogue?
3. Will the EEAS consider adopting an official position stating that the Dalai Lama's succession is a strictly religious matter, to be decided upon only by the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Buddhist community like the USA?

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