

White Paper Revolution: Solidarity with the Chinese Protesters

1 Over the weekend of 26th November 2022, mass civil unrest and protests erupted
2 throughout the People's Republic of China (hereinafter China) across 15 cities,
3 largely coordinated by students from more than 50 university campuses, and by workers in as
4 many factories.

5 The protests began as demonstrations against China's 'zero-COVID' policy, but
6 many have grown into overall dissent of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s
7 administration and particularly of CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping – with
8 expressions of anger over oppression and repression by the state, and calls for
9 democracy, freedom and human rights, or even the resignation of Xi Jinping or an
10 end to CCP rule.

11 Blank sheets of paper have become a symbol of the protests, as students have
12 used it to represent the CCP's restrictions on speech. Mass civil unrest and
13 protests in China to this degree amounts to one of the most widespread
14 expressions of dissent since the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

15 The CCP's response since has, expectedly, been a crackdown of protests and
16 suppression of (online) speech. Police units and metal barricades have been set
17 up in various cities, and police have been recorded abusing and arresting
18 protesters and journalists on ~~Sunday~~, November 27th, in Shanghai, including two
19 foreign reporters. Mentions of the protests and the word 'white paper' and
20 videos of such abuses continue to be wiped from the Chinese internet.

21 At such a crucial and monumental juncture in time, where such dissent aimed at
22 the CCP and its leader Xi Jinping is unprecedented, governments of the Western
23 world cannot again choose to remain silent. The European Union and the
24 governments of Europe must do more to rebuke China and hold Xi Jinping and his
25 administration accountable for their actions. ~~As the protests and CCP~~
26 ~~retaliation escalate, President of the European Council Charles Michel is, at~~
27 ~~the time of writing, still scheduled to fly out to Beijing on December 1st to~~
28 ~~meet with Xi Jinping in an effort to strengthen ties between Brussels and~~
29 ~~Beijing. Despite escalation of protests and CCP retaliation, President of the European Council~~
30 Charles Michel still flew to Beijing on December 1st to meet with Xi Jinping.

31 The European Green Party therefore expresses its grave concern, as it has in the
32 past, of China's suppression of fundamental rights, its continuous human rights
33 abuses, its breaches of international law, and its crimes against humanity. We
34 watch closely the developments of these protests and the response of the CCP,
35 condemning of the increasing escalation of force used by the Chinese police and
36 mass censorship and suppression of speech and freedom of press. We strongly



37 reaffirm our demands made in the resolution adopted at the 33rd EGP Council –
38 that the EU and national governments of Europe must actively pursue a common
39 policy vis-à-vis China that is guided by upholding human rights and defending
40 international rule of law.

41 With regards to all of the above, reaffirming the resolution on EU's China
42 policy adopted at the 33rd EGP Council and in light of the further escalation of
43 these protests, the European Green Party repeats all of the demands expressed in
44 the previous resolution, and expresses our full solidarity with the protesters
45 and unequivocal support for their fundamental rights and freedoms. We call upon
46 the EU and national governments of the Europe to:

- 47 • Express their undivided support and solidarity for the protesters in China
48 and those protesting abroad;
- 49 • Condemn in the strongest terms the crackdown of the CCP administration
50 against the protesters and the suppression of their fundamental right to
51 free speech and assembly;
- 52 • Exert pressure on the CCP administration to comply with the UN Charter and
53 international human rights laws and standards as well as to condition
54 future relations and agreements made with China on compliance with such
55 norms, including for example the continued freezing of the EU-China
56 investment deal;
- 57 • Strongly demand the CCP administration and companies with factories in China to
58 guarantee decent work conditions and respect for the freedom, human dignity and equality
59 of the workers in factories, in accordance with ~~with~~ the conventions and other relevant
60 standards of the International Labour Organisation;
- 61 • Consider, in light of further retaliation against and crackdown on these
62 protesters by the CCP, the implementation of new sanctions, including
63 targeted sanctions of Chinese officials and entities responsible for or
64 directly associated with the crackdowns and other affiliated human rights
65 violations;
- 66 • ~~Offer~~ Offer asylum to Chinese activists, citizens, dissidents and individuals persecuted or
67 targeted by the Chinese state living abroad, and issue humanitarian visas
68 to facilitate the travel of said Chinese individuals in need of humanitarian protection to
69 European borders;
- 70 • Guarantee the same degree of protection to Chinese activists, citizens,
71 dissidents and individuals targeted by the Chinese state living in
72 European territories as a European citizen would have, including the
73 suspension of operations of Chinese police overseas service stations
74 within territories of European states pending investigations into these
75 stations of allegations of intimidation and persecution of Chinese

- 76 ~~individuals;~~individuals and end any extradition treaties between European states and China;
77 =
78
- 79 • Demand Chinese authorities to stop the intimidation, persecution and abuse
80 of protesters and journalists, to respond to protests in line with
81 international human rights laws and standards, and to release immediately
82 and unconditionally all political prisoners, including human rights
83 defenders, dissidents, activists, journalists, and academics;
- 84 • Support in all ways possible the limited democratic civil society
85 ~~available in or~~ operating in China, prioritising their own agency and wishes, including human
86 rights organisations
87 and groups, civil society organisations, civil defenders and advocates,
88 and journalists. This includes resources and assistance in the monitoring
89 of state censorship, repression and oppression in light of these
90 crackdowns, and professional and legal support, ~~and financial aid;~~
- 91 • Facilitate free access to the Internet and the flow of and access to
92 information where possible, such as through the facilitation of Virtual
93 Private Networks (VPNs) to bypass the Chinese 'firewall', as well as the
94 facilitation of the production and dissemination of non-CCP-affiliated
95 media via the support of independent Chinese and foreign journalists on
96 the ground in China and pressure on the CCP against their further
97 persecution;
- 98 • Push for the international condemnation of the human rights abuses and
99 state suppression and oppression of the CCP via our democratic partners
100 generally and specifically via the General Assembly and/or Human Rights
101 Council of the UN;
- 102 • In accordance with the above and anticipating further retaliation and
103 crackdown by the CCP of these protesters, to call for the creation of an
104 independent evidence gathering mechanism with functions similar to those
105 of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) for Syria
106 via either the UN General Assembly or Human Rights Council in order to
107 investigate human rights violations committed by the CCP against Chinese
108 citizens, and to assist in any way feasible the coordination of such
109 investigations.

Background

What began as a resistance to the government's 'zero-COVID' policy grew in strength and reached a tipping point after a fire broke out in a residential high-rise in Ürümqi of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (hereinafter Xinjiang), leading to the death of ten people, as residents were not allowed to leave the building and firefighters were delayed from reaching the residents.



There is no doubt. Reiterating our previous resolution on China adopted at the 33rd EGP Council, the CCP is an authoritarian regime. Its 'zero-COVID' policy, the ruthlessness with which its enforced and violent suppression of critical opinion is but the latest thread in a pattern over the past decades of sweeping crackdowns and censorship of dissent, free speech, and freedom of press, of erasure and destruction of civil society, and of the ethnic oppression of the Uyghurs, Tibetans, the Mongols, the Hui and others. State oppression and repression has only continually increased both internally, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet, and externally in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Oppression, repression, and threats of military forces by the CCP has continually increased across the entirety of China, its disputed territories, and beyond. The CCP's brutalities against activists, dissidents and individuals targeted by the Chinese state include reports of the routine use of torture, forced disappearances, a lack of rule of law and separation of powers with politically controlled courts, and the excessive use of - often politically motivated - death sentences.

Therefore, it is especially notable that these protests have erupted out of Xinjiang, where the mass surveillance state is significantly more expansive than the rest of China. Furthermore, it is where the CCP is reportedly committing crimes against humanity in the region, as assessed in the report by the office of UN high commissioner for human rights Michelle Bachelet, published August 31st and likewise concluded by the European Parliament, which added that there is a high risk of genocide. This includes the ethnic cleansing, and forced internment, sterilisation, 're-education' (noting that 're-education' is the brainwashing through violence, dehumanisation and torture), and exploitation of up to 2 million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities. However, the CCP has not been formally investigated on this, after such a measure was shot down by China and its allies in the UN Human Rights Council. The report from commissioner Bachelet was not a full investigation, as the UN was never allowed proper access.

Supporters

Miljøpartiet De Grønne; GroenLinks; Groen; Vihreät - De Gröna; Green Party of England and Wales; Scottish Green Party