JOINT STATEMENT ON CHINESE SANCTIONS AGAINST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

We, the signatories to this statement, underscore our grave concern regarding China's violations of the Uighur Muslim minority in Xinjiang.

We condemn in the strongest terms the retaliatory measures taken by the Chinese authorities against members of our Parliaments.

We are extremely concerned about this serious infringement of the freedom of expression. Such intimidation of parliamentarians is unacceptable.

We reaffirm that freedom of expression, parliamentary freedom and the defence of human rights are pillars of our democracies. We will never compromise on these values.

Finally, we believe that parliamentary diplomacy is essential. Therefore, we strongly urge the Chinese authorities to re-consider their decision which might affect the future relations between our Parliaments.

David Sassoli

President European Parliament Eliane Tilleux
President Belgian House
of representatives

Khadija Arib President Dutch House of representatives Viktorija Cmilytė-Nielsen Speaker Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania