

Twitter Thread by Stuart Lau



Stuart Lau

[@stuartklau](#)



From ■■: One of the three German politicians vying to lead Merkel's CDU party became the first major European voice to link today's mass arrests in Hong Kong with the EU-China investment deal.

Mehr als 50 Oppositionelle wurden in [#HongKong](#) festgenommen. Grundlage ist das neue [#Sicherheitsgesetz](#), das [#China](#) als Waffe gegen die Demokratie dient. Wenn \U0001f1ea\U0001f1fa ein Abkommen mit \U0001f1e8\U0001f1f3 schlie\xdf, dann darf es dessen Methoden, inklusive Vertragsbruch & Unterdr\xfcckung, nicht ignorieren. <https://t.co/VEXeVm1w2Z>

— Norbert R\xfcftgen (@n_roettgen) [January 6, 2021](#)

A prominent critic of the deal in the European Parliament asked: "Democracy in HK is dying before our eyes, and the priority of our dear European leaders is to sell us their investment agreement with Beijing. How can we be so out of time?" <https://t.co/392P5xZ3VV>

Des dizaines d'u2019opposants arr\xeat\xe9s \xe0 Hong Kong. La d\xेमocratie HK meurt sous nos yeux. Et la priorit\xe9 de nos chers dirigeants europ\xe9ens est de nous vendre leur accord d'u2019investissement avec P\xe9kin... Comment peut-on \xeatre \xe0 ce point \xe0 contre-temps? <https://t.co/zy1xaqlYdB>

— Raphael Glucksmann (@rglucks1) [January 6, 2021](#)

Interesting take <https://t.co/awMCzgSPFD>

2) Also shows that BJ doesn't have a clue about how EU works or simply doesn't care if the CAI-deal really goes through. What BJ is doing in HK will make it even less probable that the EU parliament will ratify CAI.

— Dana Heide (@Dana_Heide) [January 6, 2021](#)

EU Commission spokesman [@MamerEric](#) defended the bloc's decision to reach an investment deal, and added the need to engage China on issues like climate change, when asked about the impact of the human rights situation in Hong Kong on EU-China relations.

"The coordinated arrest of over 50 pro-democracy activists on accusations of subversion under the National Security Law sends a signal that political pluralism is no longer tolerated in Hong Kong. The EU calls for the immediate release of those

arrested,” [@ExtSpoxEU](#) says.

Swedish FM on Hong Kong mass arrests: <https://t.co/msgXS7Blbr>

Very concerned about mass arrests of pro-democracy politicians and activists among other worrying developments in Hong Kong. The exercise of the human rights and freedoms guaranteed under Hong Kong's 2019 Basic Law must be ensured.

— Ann Linde ([@AnnLinde](#)) [January 6, 2021](#)

Head of the European Parliament's trade committee - the body that will scrutinise the CAI deal - strikes a strong tone on the mass arrests in HK, saying they “mark a violation of the spirit of the EU-China investment deal sustainability commitments” - incl human rights. <https://t.co/QCXMPSjaMz>

Trade does not take place in a vacuum - these actions mark a violation of the spirit of the [#EU-#China](#) investment deal sustainability commitments. This is clearly not a basis for constructive cooperation. <https://t.co/TZo1MwarbS>

— Bernd Lange ([@berndlange](#)) [January 6, 2021](#)

The list keeps growing. Here's ex-Belgian prime minister and high-profile MEP [@guyverhofstadt](#)'s take

➡ EU Parliament “will never ratify” deal without “proof that the human rights of Hong Kongers, Uyghurs & Tibetans improve”. <https://t.co/fXdaQgPhHx>

Arrests again show that China is not becoming more open & democratic as a result of international agreements. EP will never ratify the China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment without commitments & proof that the human rights of Hong Kongers, Uyghurs & Tibetans improve <https://t.co/ninBU23bNM>

— Guy Verhofstadt ([@guyverhofstadt](#)) [January 6, 2021](#)

5 [@Europarl_EN](#) members ask [@eucopresident](#) [@vonderleyen](#) [@JosepBorrellF](#) to take urgent action on Hong Kong, incl

- raising issue at UN Security Council
- sanctioning “at least” Carrie Lam
- providing lifeboat to persecuted democrats on member-state level

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Beijing and Hong Kong authorities “deliberately misled the world about the true purpose of the National Security Law”, which as the mass arrests show is being used to crush dissent and opposing political views, [@DominicRaab](#) says. <https://t.co/e2yGldIXSF>

The mass arrest of politicians & activists in Hong Kong is a grievous attack on rights and freedoms.

These arrests demonstrate the intended use of the National Security law is to clamp down on dissent and opposing political views. <https://t.co/geroW3SENO>

