# Twitter Thread by Stuart Lau



**Stuart Lau**
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## 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\xdft, dann darf es dessen Methoden, inklusive Vertragsbruch & Unterdr\xfcckung, nicht ignorieren. https://t.co/VEXeVm1w2Z
>
> — Norbert R\xf6ttgen (@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\xe9mocratie 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/zy1xaqIYdB
>
> — Raphael Glucksmann (@rglucks1) January 6, 2021

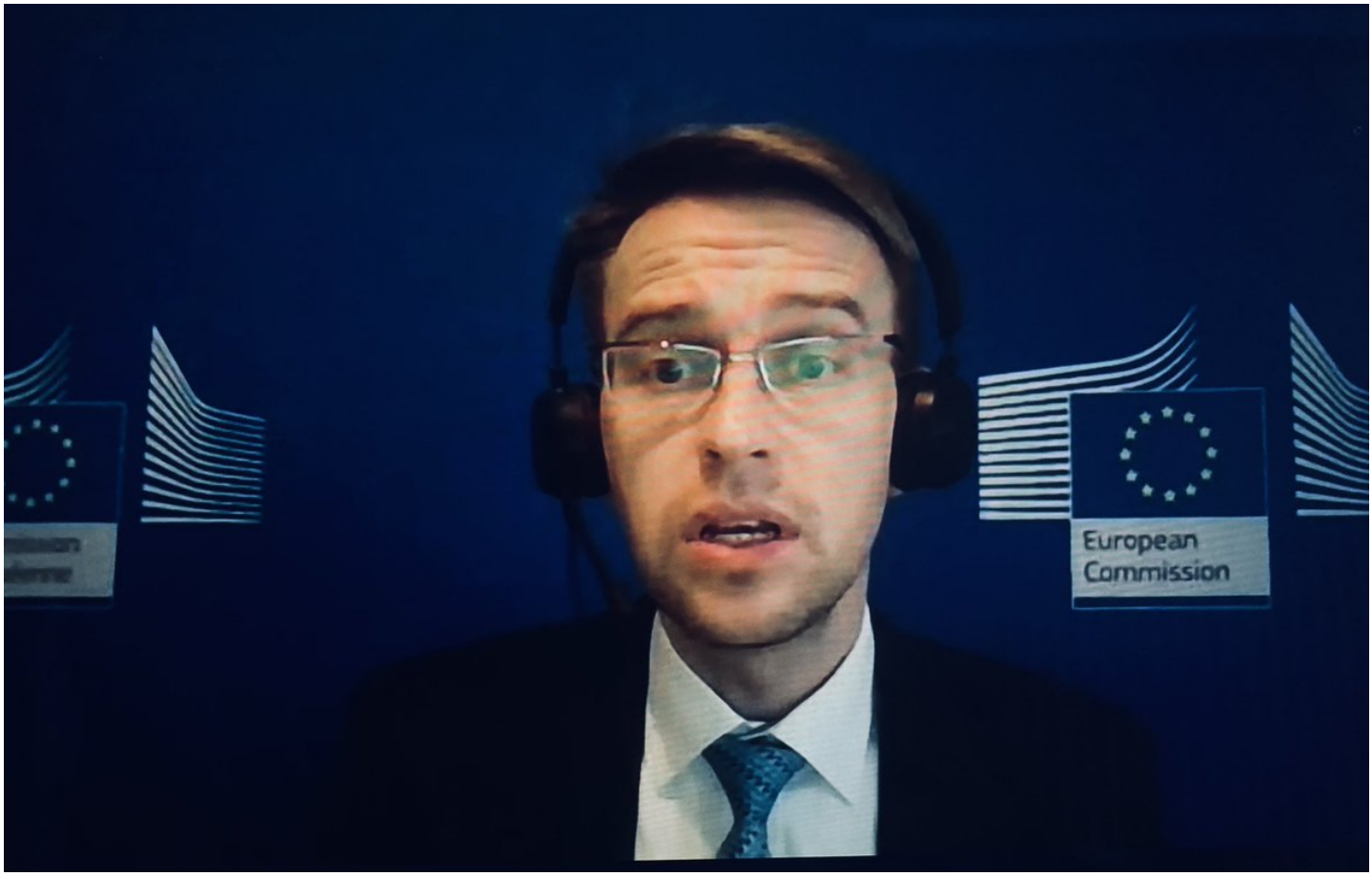
Interesting take https://t.co/awMCzgSPFD

> 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/msgXS7BIbr

> 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\u2019s 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

#ReportingNotEndorsing

The Co-Chairs of the Hong Kong Watch Group of the European Parliament are united in condemnation of the arrest of over 50 Hong Kong pan-democrat politicians, activists and lawyers and call on Presidents Michel and von der Leyen, on HR/VP Borrell as well as EU member states' governments to take urgent action.

Those arrested had taken part in primary polling for pro-democracy groups last year, with the aim of standing in the later illegitimately postponed Legislative Council elections. Many are reportedly held under the spurious charges of 'subversion' under the Hong Kong National Security Law, providing further proof that this law is being used to crackdown on all forms of political opposition in the city.

Today's arrests demonstrate that despite widespread international condemnation, the Chinese and Hong Kong authorities remain undeterred in their determination to destroy the last remnants of Hong Kong's autonomy, freedoms and rule of law. The Chinese government is making clear and repeated breaches of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, an international treaty registered at the United Nations.

We call on EU leaders to honour their past promises to the people of Hong Kong, to lodge strong and public protests with the PRC over this act of oppression and bear them in mind in all aspects of our relations with the PRC, to take the initiative to raise this issue at the UN Security Council, and to start the procedure to sanction at least against Carrie Lam under the EU's new Global Human Rights Sanctions Mechanism. We appeal to the EU Member States and the international community to provide a life boat policy for persecuted Hong Kong democrats.

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/e2yGIdlXSF

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

— Dominic Raab (@DominicRaab) January 6, 2021