

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003008/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Francisco Assis (S&D)
(16 July 2026)

Subject: One year since Portuguese citizen and pro-democracy Macao activist Au Kam San's arrest

Under the 'one country, two systems' principle, the Basic Laws of Hong Kong and Macao enshrine respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In spite of that formal recognition, deterioration of those rights is getting worse and the repression of civil society is clear.

On 30 July 2025, former Macao MP and Portuguese national Au Kam San was taken into custody for alleged 'collusion with foreign anti-China forces' — a scheme repeatedly used to weaken democratic dissent and which has already put hundreds of activists behind bars. Au Kam San was one of the organisers of the public vigils to mark the date of the Tiananmen massacre, until the new National Security Law was adopted.

One year on, Au Kam San is still unable to communicate with the outside world, including his own family, and has no access to legal assistance.

On 2 August 2025, the EU condemned the arrest and acknowledged the erosion of fundamental freedoms in the Macao Special Administrative Region. Given that the situation of Au Kam San has not changed since that date:

What action is the EU taking to secure the rapid release of this EU citizen?

Submitted: 16.7.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(21 August 2026)

The EU closely follows the human rights situation in the Macao Special Administrative Region and has repeatedly expressed concern about the continued erosion of fundamental freedoms, political pluralism and civic space, including in the context of the application of national security legislation.

Following the arrest of former legislator and EU citizen Au Kam San on 30 July 2025, the EU publicly condemned his arrest and called on the Macao authorities to uphold the rights and freedoms guaranteed under Macao's Basic Law and international human rights law ⁽¹⁾.

The Office of the EU in Hong Kong and Macao continues to follow his case closely. The EU raises his case and concerns surrounding his prolonged detention in exchanges with the relevant authorities, including at senior level, and liaises with the Portuguese authorities.

These concerns include his conditions of detention, restrictions on contact with his family and his access to independent and effective legal representation.

The EU calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Au Kam San and, pending his release, for full respect for his procedural rights, including prompt and unhindered access to a lawyer of his choice and family visits.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/macao-statement-spokesperson-arrest-au-kam-san_en.