European Parliament
2024-2029

TEXTS ADOPTED

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Condemnation of pro-democracy activist and former lawmaker Au Kam San in Macao

European Parliament resolution of 26 November 2026 on the condemnation of pro-democracy activist and former lawmaker Au Kam San in Macao (2026/2991(RSP))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rules 150(5) and 136(4) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Portuguese and EU citizen Au Kam San, a former member of the Macao Legislative Assembly and a prominent pro-democracy activist, was arrested in July 2025 under Macao's National Security Law (NSL), accused of subversion and alleged collusion with foreign organisations;

B. whereas, on 6 November 2026, following over a year in detention, Au was sentenced to 12,5 years in prison; whereas the trial was conducted behind closed doors, the full judgment and supporting evidence have not been made public, and serious concerns have been raised regarding access to independent legal counsel and family visits; whereas, according to his legal team, meetings with the Office of the EU to Hong Kong and Macao were used as evidence;

C. whereas this is the first conviction of its kind under Macao's NSL and raises serious concerns about the erosion of political pluralism, media freedom, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;

D. whereas the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration of 1987 remains a legally binding international agreement and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) applies to Macao under Article 40 of its Basic Law; whereas the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Macao are bound by their international obligations and cannot invoke domestic legislation to justify non-compliance;

E. whereas Au's case, alongside the sentencing of Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong, reflects the PRC's systematic dismantling of

fundamental freedoms and autonomy in both Special Administrative Regions;

1. Strongly condemns the politically motivated conviction and harsh sentence imposed on Au and calls for his conviction to be overturned and for his immediate and unconditional release, and that of Joshua Wong;

2. Calls on the Macao authorities to guarantee Au’s access to a lawyer of his choice, regular family visits and Portuguese consular assistance, to ensure full transparency and due process, and to make the complete judgment publicly available;

3. Stresses that the protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law must remain fully guaranteed under the Macao Basic Law, the ICCPR and the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration; calls for an end to the use of national security legislation to criminalise legitimate political activity;

4. Calls for the EU and its Member States to raise the case systematically in bilateral and multilateral engagements with the PRC and Macao, strengthen the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue and coordinate diplomatic efforts to secure Au’s release;

5. Urges the Council to consider targeted measures under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime against individuals responsible for serious human rights violations in Macao; urges the Member States to suspend extradition treaties with the PRC and Hong Kong and not to conclude any with Macao; calls on the EEAS and the Office of the EU to Hong Kong and Macao to intensify monitoring of human rights developments;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the VP/HR, the Member States, the People’s Republic of China and the Macao authorities.