



Plenary sitting

B8-0464/2018

2.10.2018

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure

on Mass arbitrary detention of Uyghurs and Kazakhs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region
2018/2863(RSP)

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on behalf of the S&D Group

B8-0464/2018

**European Parliament resolution on #TXNRRSP@NRRSP@#
(2018/2863(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in China, in particular the one of 12 September 2018 on the state of EU-China relations, the one of 18 January 2018 on the cases of the human rights activists Wu Gan, Xie Yang, Lee Ming-che and Tashi Wangchuk, and the Tibetan monk Choekyi, the one of 6 July 2017 on the cases of Nobel Laureate Liu Xiaobo and Lee Ming-Che, the one of 15 December 2016 on the cases of the Larung Gar Tibetan Buddhist Academy and Ilham Tohti, the one of 24 November 2016 on the case of Gui Minhai, jailed publisher in China,
 - having regard to the EU-China Strategic Partnership launched in 2003 and to the European Commission and EEAS joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council entitled ‘Elements for a new EU strategy on China’, of 22 June 2016,
 - having regard to the EU-China Summit held in Beijing, on 16 July 2018, and the Joint statement of the 20th EU-China Summit;
 - having regard to the 36th round of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue held in Beijing on 9-10 July 2018,
 - having regard to the statement by the EU Ambassador to PR of China, Nicolas Chapuis, of 14 September 2018,
 - having regard to the Declaration by the HR/VP Frederica Mogherini at the plenary session of the European Parliament on the state of the EU-China relations,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966,
 - having regard to Rules 135(5) and 123(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the promotion and the respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law should remain at the centre of the long standing relationship between the EU and China, in line with the EU’s commitment to uphold these values in its external action and China’s expressed interest in adhering to these very values in its own development and international cooperation;
- B. whereas the situation in Xinjiang, where 10 million Muslim Uighurs and ethnic Kazakhs live, has rapidly deteriorated in the last years, as absolute control of Xinjiang has been elevated to a top priority, driven by both periodic terrorist attacks in or allegedly connected to Xinjiang by Uighurs and the strategic location of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region for the BRI;

C. whereas there is solid information that Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other primarily Muslim ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) have been subjected to arbitrary detention, torture, egregious restrictions on religious practice and culture, and a digitized surveillance system so pervasive that every aspect of daily life is monitored—through facial recognition cameras, mobile phone scans, DNA collection, and an extensive and intrusive police presence;

D. whereas there are credible reports that at least hundreds of thousands, and possibly more than one million people are or have been detained in “political re-education centers”, representing the largest mass incarceration of an ethnic minority population in the world today; whereas there are reports that young children have been sent to state-run orphanages, even if only one of their parents is being detained in an internment camp;

E. whereas the detention and persecution of Uighur and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang has compelled many of them to stop communicating with their family and friends based abroad, including in Europe, for fear of retribution by authorities;

F. whereas China has progressed in the last decades in the realisation of economic and social rights, reflecting its priorities for the people’s rights to subsistence and development, while achievements in the area of political and civil rights together with the promotion of human rights are limited or non-existing;

G. whereas in its strategic framework on human rights and democracy, the EU pledges that human rights, democracy, and rule of law will be promoted “in all areas of the EU's external actions without exception” and that the EU will “place human rights at the centre of its relations with all third countries including strategic partners.”;

1. Strongly condemns the sending of thousands of Uyghurs and ethnic Kazakhs to ‘political re-education camps’ based on analysis of the data harvested through a system of ‘predictive policing’, including for having travelled abroad or being adjudged to be too religiously devout;

2. Calls on the Chinese authorities to provide information about the locations and medical conditions of those detained and immediately release them if there is no evidence of actual criminal activity;

3. Expresses its deep concern regarding the reports about the harassment of Uighurs abroad by the Chinese authorities in order to compel them to act as informants against other Uighurs, return to Xinjiang or remain silent about the situation there, sometimes by detaining their family members;

4. Calls on the Chinese authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti, and, in the meantime, to ensure that he has regular, unrestricted access to family and lawyers of his choice, and is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment; calls for an immediate, effective and impartial investigation into the alleged torture against Ilham Tohti and bring those responsible to justice;

5. Notes with concern that the declared vital importance of ‘long-term stability’ in

Xinjiang to the success of BRI has resulted in the intensification of longstanding strategies of control augmented by a variety of technological innovations and a rapid increase in expenditure on domestic security, as well as the use of counter-terrorism measures to criminalise dissent and dissident individuals via the application of a broad definition of terrorism; is concerned by the state's implementation of measures to ensure the 'comprehensive supervision' of the region via the installation of China's 'Skynet' electronic surveillance in major urban areas, installations of GPS trackers in all motor vehicles, use of facial recognition scanners at checkpoints and at train and petrol stations, and a blood-collecting effort by Xinjiang's police to further expand China's DNA database;

6. Urges Chinese authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all human rights defenders, activists, lawyers, journalists and petitioners being detained for their human rights work, and end the ongoing crackdown of detention, judicial harassment, and intimidation against them; underlines that Chinese authorities must ensure that all those held incommunicado are immediately put in contact with their family members and lawyers, and the conditions of all those in detention must meet the standards set out in set out in the 'Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment', adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988, including access to medical care;

7. Welcomes the decision taken by Germany and Sweden to suspend the return of all ethnic Uyghurs, Kazakhs or other Turkic Muslims to China in consideration of the risks of arbitrary detention, torture or other ill-treatment they would face in the country; calls on all other Member States to follow suit and to expedite asylum claims by Turkic Muslims at risk of being forcibly returned to China;

8. Urges the EU and its Member States to take all necessary measures to persuade the Chinese Government to close the camps and end all human rights violations in Xinjiang; calls on the EU and its Member States to reiterate this message to the Chinese government at every occasion and at the highest levels, starting from the upcoming Europe-Asia (ASEM) Summit in Brussels as well as during China's Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council;

10. Recalls the importance for the EU to raise the issue of human rights violation in China, in particular the case of minorities in Tibet and Xinjiang, at every political and human rights dialogue with the Chinese authorities, in line with the EU's commitment to project a strong, clear and unified voice in its approach to the country, including the yearly Human Rights Dialogues; further reminds that in its ongoing reform process and increasing global engagement, China has opted into the international human rights framework by signing up to a wide range of international human rights treaties, and therefore urges to pursue dialogue with China to live up to these commitments;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Government and Parliament of the People's Republic of China;