



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Plenary sitting

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B7-0276/2011

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

pursuant to Rule 122 of the Rules of Procedure

on the case of Ai Wei Wei

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on behalf of the ECR Group

European Parliament resolution on the case of Ai Wei Wei

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the human rights situation in China,
 - having regard to the EU-China human rights dialogue of 20 November 2009,
 - having regard to Rule 122(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Union is based on adherence to the values of freedom, democracy and observance of human rights and to the rule of law, and it regards observance of those inalienable rights as an essential prerequisite for peaceful existence in a civilised society,
- B. whereas the new EU-China Strategic Partnership, currently being negotiated, is very important for relations between the Union and China in the future, and whereas a true partnership should be based on shared common values,
- C. whereas on 3 April 2011 the internationally distinguished Chinese artist and critic of the regime Ai Weiwei was detained at the Beijing airport by the border guards and his whereabouts are currently unknown; whereas Chinese authorities have not acknowledged detaining the artist;
- D. whereas the police allegedly did a search in Ai Weiwei's studio in Caochangdi village and took away eight of his assistants, bringing them to a police station in Beijing;
- E. whereas for his activities Ai Weiwei has already been prevented from travelling abroad and was once put under house arrest;
- F. whereas on the same day police officers forcibly detained Ai's friend Wen Tao, a former reporter;
- G. whereas Ai Weiwei was a vocal critic of the Chinese Government, pointing out the lack of basic rights and freedoms and expressing his opposition in his arts and in supporting others who have tackled the authorities;
- H. whereas dozens of other political activists, lawyers, writers and critics have been detained in a similar fashion since calls for a "Jasmine Revolution" in China began circulating; whereas at least three individuals have been formally charged with state subversion, several others have disappeared without their families being officially informed of their detention and more than 20 activists, lawyers and bloggers are being held without charge;
- I. whereas there are continuous reports of political repression, particularly of journalists, human rights activists and members of religious and ethnic minorities, allegations of torture, frequent

use of the death penalty and systematic repression of freedom of religion, speech and the media including the Internet;

1. Strongly condemns the unjustifiable detention of Ai Weiwei;
2. Calls on Chinese authorities to immediately free Ai Weiwei from the detention;
3. Notes that Ai Weiwei has been arrested in Chengdu, in August 2009, when he was beaten and faced serious health problems afterwards;
4. Strongly condemns the ongoing sweep of Chinese writers, activists, lawyers, and others which constitutes the most intense crackdown on expression in years; calls on Chinese authorities to immediately stop the harassment of dissidents;
5. Is concerned that the detention of a world-renowned artist in broad daylight at Beijing airport could imply that the Chinese authorities feel emboldened to pursue an indiscriminate crackdown of lesser-known dissidents;
6. Calls upon China to respect its commitments to human rights, to its universality and to the rule of law, in particular the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders;
7. Deplores the fact that China's human rights record remains a matter of concern owing to widespread and systematic human rights abuses;
8. Urges China to reform its criminal law to allow greater freedom of expression and to respect freedom of the media both Chinese and foreign based in China; calls on the Chinese authorities to end the blocking of thousands of websites, including European media websites; calls on the Chinese authorities to release cyber dissidents and web users imprisoned in China;
9. Calls on China for a prompt ratification and implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
10. Calls on the EU and China to strengthen the EU-China human rights dialogue, established in 2000, which, up to now, did not achieve tangible results;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and parliaments of the Member States, the United Nations Human Rights Council and the President and Government of the People's Republic of China.