



Plenary sitting

B8-0172/2018

13.3.2018

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 situation in the Maldives
(2018/2630(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on situation in the Maldives
(2018/2630(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on situation in Maldives, particularly those of 16 September 2004, 30 April 2015, 17 December 2015 and 5 October 2017,
 - having regard to the Statement by the Spokesperson of the EEAS on the decision of the Supreme Court of the Maldives of 5 February 2018, and on the situation in the Maldives of 6 February 2018,
 - having regard to the statement issued on 6 February 2018 by the Bureau of the European Parliament's South Asia Delegation on the situation in the Maldives,
 - having regard the Council Conclusions on EU Priorities in UN Human Rights Fora in 2018 adopted by the Council at its 3598th meeting held on 26 February 2018,
 - having regard to the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on the Maldives, as adopted by the Council at its 3598th meeting held on 26 February 2018,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the human rights situation in the Maldives has deteriorated dramatically since the country's first democratic elections in 2008 and since its first democratically elected President, Mohamed Nasheed, was ousted in 2012;
- B. whereas opposition party members, independent journalists and human rights defenders report increased threats and attacks from authorities, police and extremist groups;
- C. whereas the Foreign Affairs Council has followed with concern the recent deterioration of the situation in the Maldives, and calls on all in the country, in particular law enforcement forces, to act with restraint;
- D. whereas the Supreme Court of the Maldives, on 1 February 2018 issued a ruling ordering the release of leading politicians and reinstated 12 members of Parliament;
- E. whereas the State of Emergency was extended on 20 February for a further 30 days; whereas the declaration of the state of emergency undermines democracy and human rights and further escalates political tensions in the Maldives;
1. Expresses its deep concern regarding the serious deteriorating political and human rights situation in the Maldives as well as of democratic standards; takes positive note of the Council Conclusions on the Maldives of 26 February 2018;

2. Calls on the Government of the Maldives to lift the State of Emergency immediately, to respect the institutions and their competencies as provided for in the Constitution, and to respect the fundamental rights of all people and the rule of law;
3. Deplores the crackdown on political opponents in the Maldives, and calls on the Government to drop all charges against all those being held for political reasons and to release them, immediately and unconditionally; condemns the continued intimidation of and threats against journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders in the Maldives;
4. Welcomes the decision of the Supreme Court of the Maldives to annul the criminal proceedings against leading politicians and to reinstate 12 members of the Parliament; calls the Maldivian authorities to abide by the ruling;
5. Reiterates its call on the Government to ensure the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary and to guarantee all citizens the right to fair and transparent justice free of political influence; condemns interference with the work of the Supreme Court and actions taken against the Judiciary and the judges;
6. Stresses that the Parliament and the Judiciary should be enabled to return to their normal functioning in accordance with the Constitution;
7. Underlines that the only way to resolve the deterioration in democracy, human rights, and freedoms in the Maldives is through a process of a genuine and inclusive dialogue between the Government and the leaders of all political parties that should pave the way for credible, transparent and inclusive elections; considers that the EU should continue to actively support a UN facilitation of such dialogue;
8. Reiterates the EU's firm opposition to the death penalty, in all cases and without exception; strongly condemns the announcement of the reintroduction of the death penalty in the Maldives and urges the Government and Parliament of the Maldives to respect the moratorium on the death penalty which has been in place for more than 60 years;
9. Strongly criticizes that the practice of other than Muslim faith is severely punishable in the Maldives;
10. Reiterates its call on the Government of the Maldives to respect and fully support the right to protest, freedom of expression, association and assembly, and freedom of conscience and freedom of religion and belief, irrespective of the majority religion;
11. Calls on the European External Action Service to monitor closely the human rights and political situation in the Maldives;
12. Calls on the EU to make full use of all instruments at its disposal in order to promote the respect of human rights and democratic principles in the Maldives, including by introducing individual targeted sanctions against those undermining human rights and democratic principles;

13. Stresses in this context that a fact-finding mission to Maldives of a delegation of the European Parliament could positively contribute to the understanding of the situation and to the opening of a dialogue on human rights issues and democratic standards;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of United Nations and the Government of the Maldives.