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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-0381/2018**

11.9.2018

## **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 Myanmar, notably the case of journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo (2018/2841(RSP))

**Cristian Dan Preda, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jaromír Štětina, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Krzysztof Hetman, Eduard Kukan, Patricija Šulin, Tomáš Zdechovský, Marijana Petir, Tunne Kelam, Elisabetta Gardini, Roberta Metsola, Csaba Sógor, Romana Tomc, Željana Zovko, Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Giovanni La Via, Pavel Svoboda, Ivan Štefanec, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, József Nagy, Adam Szejnfeld, Stanislav Polčák, Tadeusz Zwiefka, Michaela Šojdrová, Joachim Zeller, Sandra Kalniete, Francis Zammit Dimech, David McAllister, Seán Kelly, Ivana Maletić, Deirdre Clune, Dubravka Šuica, Tokia Saïfi, Milan Zver, Ivo Belet, Andrey Kovatchev, Francisco José Millán Mon, Inese Vaidere, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**  
on behalf of the PPE Group

**B8-0381/2018**

**European Parliament resolution on Myanmar, notably the case of journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo (2018/2841(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Myanmar,
  - having regard to the Statement by the Spokesperson of the European External Action Service of 30 August 2018 on the Preliminary Report of the United Nations International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar,
  - having regard to the Statement by the Spokesperson of the European External Action Service of 3 September 2018 on the sentencing of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo in Myanmar,
  - having regard to the Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar of 24 August 2018,
  - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
  - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966,
  - having regard to Rules 135(5) and 123(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were sentenced to seven years imprisonment on 3 September 2018 by a court in Myanmar under the Official Secrets Act of 1923 for covering allegations of serious human rights violations in Rakhine State;
- B. whereas the European Union and EU Member States diplomats were among the many international observers present at every court hearing since the journalists' arrest on 12 December 2017 and have continuously raised the matter with the Government of Myanmar;
- C. whereas Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and David Kaye, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, urged Myanmar to respect press freedom and the public's right to know, so that journalists can carry out their duties freely and safely;
- D. whereas the Rohingya represent the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in Rakhine State; whereas the approximately one million Rohingya are one of the world's most persecuted minorities;
- E. whereas in its report the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar writes that: "in the early hours of 25 August, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army launched coordinated attacks on a military base and up to 30 security force outposts

across northern Rakhine State, in an apparent response to increased pressure on Rohingya communities and with the goal of global attention”, “the security forces’ response, starting within hours, was immediate, brutal and grossly disproportionate”,

- F. whereas the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar concludes that: “the gross human rights violations and abuses committed in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States are shocking for their horrifying nature and ubiquity”;
1. Calls on the authorities of Myanmar to immediately and unconditionally release Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, and revoke the convictions against them;
  2. Underlines that Media freedom and critical journalism are essential pillars of democracy; stresses that a free press has a key function in promoting transparency and holding governments to account;
  3. Strongly condemns the attacks in Myanmar against the Rohingya; is deeply concerned at the increasing gravity and scale of human rights violations, including killings, violent clashes, destruction of civilian property and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians;
  4. Insists that the Government of Myanmar must guarantee the safe, voluntary and dignified return, on a basis of full UN oversight, to those who want to return to their land;
  5. Urges the Government of Myanmar to allow full unhindered access to Rakhine State for international observers and human rights and humanitarian relief organisations;
  6. Calls on the Government of Myanmar to reverse its decision to discontinue its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar;
  7. Notes that the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar concludes that: “serious crimes under international law have been committed that warrant criminal investigation and prosecution”; recalls that where there is evidence of human rights abuses, individuals must be prosecuted;
  8. 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 Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Government and Parliament of Myanmar.