



Plenary sitting

B9-0569/2022

13.12.2022

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 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the Chinese government crackdown on the peaceful protests across the People's Republic of China
(2022/2992(RSP))

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on behalf of the Renew Group

European Parliament resolution on the Chinese government crackdown on the peaceful protests across the People's Republic of China (2022/2992(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union of 2012,
 - having regard to its resolution of 16 September 2021 on a new EU-China strategy,
 - having regard to the EU-China summit of 1 April 2022,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on China, in particular those of 16 September 2021 on a new EU-China strategy, of 20 May 2021 on Chinese countersanctions on EU entities and MEPs and MPs, of 12 September 2018 on the state of EU-China relations and of 16 December 2015 on EU-China relations,
 - having regard to the 11th EU-China Strategic Dialogue of 28 September 2021 between VP/HR Josep Borrell and Chinese State Councillor/Foreign Minister Wang Yi,
 - having regard to Rules 144(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Whereas the promotion of and respect for democracy and fundamental human rights, such as the freedom of association, freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and freedom of religion and belief should be at the centre of the EU's relations with China, in line with the EU's commitment to upholding these values in its external action and China's commitment to adhering to them in its own development and international cooperation;
- B. Whereas on November 26, 2022, for the first time in decades, thousands of people have defied Chinese authorities to protest in Shanghai, Beijing and on the streets of other major cities, publicly opposing the government's strict Covid-19 measures, mass surveillance, and censorship and denouncing the Chinese Communist Party's authoritarian rule;
- C. Whereas although some local governments have announced relaxed quarantine measures in an attempt to calm the protests, the Chinese authorities have in parallel cracked down on protesters across the country;
- D. Whereas credible reports highlight that not just demonstrators but also journalists have been arbitrarily abused, arrested and beaten by police forces; whereas according to various human rights organisations, authorities have also interfered with the protesters' right to legal representation, as some lawyers have been warned by local authorities not to take up the cases; whereas security forces also stopped citizens on the street, inspected their electronic devices, and forced them to delete certain applications, content, and photos related to the protests on their phones;
- E. Whereas Article 35 of the PRC's constitution proclaims that "citizens of the People's

Republic of China enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession, and of demonstration."

- F. Whereas the protests across China were sparked by a fire in an apartment building in Urumchi, the regional capital of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which reportedly caused at least ten people to die;
 - G. Whereas credible evidence indicates that victims were locked inside their apartments due to zero-Covid measures, and were thus unable to escape the fire, with all of the victims being of Uyghur ethnicity;
 - H. Whereas the lockdowns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region have been particularly long and severe, with credible sources reporting about instances of Uyghur deaths due to starvation and lack of medical supplies;
 - I. Whereas the loss of life in the Urumchi fire has to be seen in the context of the broader human rights atrocities taking place in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which the European Parliament has recognized as constituting crimes against humanity and representing a serious risk of genocide;
 - J. Whereas China has been pursuing the systemic persecution of the Uyghur people and other ethnic minorities, human rights defenders, social activists, religious groups, journalists, and protesters against injustices, as well as increasingly repressing all dissenting and opposition voices;
 - K. Whereas hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities are detained in a vast network of purpose-built detention facilities in the Xinjiang region; whereas over 380 sites of re-education camps and detentions centres have been built since 2017;
 - L. Whereas, since President Xi Jinping assumed power in March 2013, the human rights situation in China has drastically deteriorated; whereas the Chinese government has increased its hostility against human rights and the rule of law;
 - M. Whereas some Chinese diplomats have engaged in violence and threats towards Chinese students and opponents abroad, calling them to "resist distorting and discrediting China's epidemic prevention and control policies";
 - N. Whereas China engages in cross-border repression and surveillance through various activities ranging from espionage, cyber-attacks, physical attack, the issuance of "Red Notices" through Interpol to "offshore police stations" on EU territory;
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- 1. Expresses its condolences and stands in solidarity with the victims of the Urumchi fire and their family members; calls upon the Chinese government to provide transparency about the number of victims and the circumstances under which they passed away;
 - 2. Condemns the arbitrary arrests of peaceful protests, human rights defenders and journalists and urges the Chinese government to respect peoples' basic rights to the freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, as enshrined in the PRC's own

constitution and international human rights law, and to ensure all police responses are in line with international standards, including the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;

3. Welcomes the Chinese government's comprehensive easing of lockdown and quarantine measures in response to the protests;
4. Calls on the Chinese authorities to stop pursuing persons involved in peaceful protests, ensuring that family members of all those deprived of liberty are notified of their whereabouts and the charges made against them, to guarantee the safety and wellbeing of all those currently deprived of liberty on grounds related to the recent protests and to stop the surveillance, harassment and detainment of journalists for independently reporting on the protests;
5. Strongly condemns all forms of cross-border repression and persecution of persons critical of the Chinese government, in particular the operation of illegal "offshore police stations" in the EU; urges Member States to review the implementation all their extradition and law enforcement agreements set up between their security and police forces with the PRC; urges as well Member States to exert caution when cooperating in international law enforce fora such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; urges the Member States' authorities to seriously investigate allegations of harassment of diaspora communities by Chinese authorities living in Europe, as well as the existence of "offshore police stations" on EU territory, and to take all appropriate measures to safeguard the rights of all communities originating from Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong and elsewhere in China living in the EU; calls on the Member States to recognise as refugees all persons who wish to come to the EU as a result of persecution or repression by the Chinese authorities; urges the Chinese authorities to allow all persons who so wish to leave the People's Republic of China; calls further on the Member States to properly ensure the security of the Chinese refugees under their jurisdiction, to avoid capture, "persuasion to return" or luring into a third country from which repatriation to China would be easily performed by Chinese authorities;
6. Calls on the Chinese authorities to promptly respond to the alleged human rights violations and accusations of committing genocide against the Uyghur population in the Xinjiang region and to allow independent monitoring by international human rights mechanisms, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
7. Express its serious concerns about the reported persistent, systematic, and inhumane abuses of human rights taking place in detention centres in Xinjiang according to the recently leaked police files;
8. Supports the call issued by 50 United Nations human rights experts to establish a special mandate at the UN Human Rights Council to monitor and report on human rights conditions across China;
9. 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, and the Government and Parliament of the People's Republic of China;