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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0571/2022**

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

**Željana Zovko, David Lega, Tomáš Zdechovský, Tom Vandenkendelaere, Antonio López-Istúriz White, David McAllister, Michaela Šojdrová, Vladimír Bilčík, Luděk Niedermayer, Vangelis Meimarakis, Ivan Štefanec, Isabel Wiseler-Lima**  
on behalf of the PPE Group

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

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on China, in particular the one of 9 June 2022 on the human rights situation in Xinjiang, including the Xinjiang police files,
  - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
  - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the promotion of and respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law should be at the centre of the EU's relations with China, in line with the EU's commitment to uphold these values in its external action and China's commitment to adhere to them in its own development and international cooperation;
- B. whereas China has, since 2020 pursued a very strict zero-Covid policy featuring mass testing and ad hoc and long lasting lockdowns seriously curtailing people's freedom and rights;
- C. whereas these heavy restrictions have led to supply shortages of essential goods, including food, restricted the access to health care, and have led an increase in youth unemployment in the People's Republic of China;
- D. whereas due to the strict enforcement of the lock-downs at times entire buildings, including emergency exits, were sealed off; whereas on 24 November a fire broke out in a residential building in Urumqi, Xinjiang, where at least ten people lost their lives, but with local sources suggesting a much higher death toll<sup>1</sup>; whereas supposedly inhabitants of this building were locked in their apartments and firefighters were delayed, likely because of restrictions imposed by the zero-Covid policy;
- E. whereas recently people took to the streets in Beijing, Shanghai and in other major Chinese cities to protest against China's zero-Covid policy; whereas some protesters calls for President Xi Jinping to resign, thus constituting an unprecedented challenge for the country's current leadership;
- F. whereas there are reports of strong police presence and interventions leading to numerous arrests of peaceful protesters;
- G. whereas, according to recent reports, Chinese authorities have implemented the highest "emergency response" level of media censorship in the context of the recent outbreak of protests;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/01/china/china-protests-urumqi-fire-deaths-covid-dst-intl-hnk/index.html>

- H. whereas in recent years, the Chinese authorities have tightened online censorship, expanded their use of surveillance technologies, dismantled civil society groups, and imprisoned many independent activists, making large-scale protests extremely difficult to carry out; whereas in recent months there have been sporadic protests over the Covid-19 policy, economic hardship, censorship, and President Xi's expanded powers within China and by Chinese nationals outside the country;
- I. whereas concerns exist that due to the mass surveillance and facial recognition technologies, the security apparatus will prosecute demonstrators at a later time;
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. Expresses its solidarity with the people of China in their fight for fundamental freedoms; condemns the persecution of the peaceful protesters;
  3. Manifests its serious concerns about human rights violations in the context of China's zero-Covid policy;
  4. Notes that all the victims of the Urumchi fire are of Uyghur ethnicity<sup>2</sup>; adds this tragedy to 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<sup>3</sup>;
  5. Condemns in the strongest terms the fact that freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of the press, and social media, are severely restricted in China, calls on the Chinese government to ensure the freedom of expression, association, assembly, press and media, as enshrined in the Constitution and international human rights law;
  6. Urges China to put an immediate end to the suppression and intimidation of peaceful protesters and to guarantee the fundamental rights for everyone; calls on the Chinese authorities to immediately release all protesters wrongfully detained; demands that all data recently collected about peaceful protestors be deleted and not used in any future case;
  7. Calls on all members of the international community and all stakeholders to address the issue of freedom of expression when engaging with the People's Republic of China;
  8. Recognises the challenge of designing the covid-19 policy to find the right balance between protection of public health and protecting rights and freedoms; recalls the importance of proportionality; notes the recent lifting of Covid restrictions in China;
  9. Reiterates its concerns about the fact that, in her visit to China, the Chinese authorities

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/urumqi-fire-12022022172846.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0237\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0237_EN.html)

did not allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet to have full access to independent civil society organisations and human rights defenders; reiterates its call on the Chinese authorities to allow free, meaningful and unhindered access for independent journalists, international observers and investigative bodies, including, in particular, the mandate holders of the UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures and the EU Special Representative for Human Rights;

10. Reiterates its call for additional EU sanctions targeting Chinese officials and entities responsible for crimes against humanity, such as CCP Secretary for Xinjiang Ma Xingrui, Chen Quanguo, Zhao Kezhi, Guo Shengkun and Hu Lianhe, as well as others identified in the Xinjiang police files who are involved in the systematic human rights violations;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Government and Parliament of the People's Republic of China.