



Plenary sitting

B9-0205/2023

18.4.2023

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 crackdown on the right to education and education rights activists in Afghanistan, including the case of Matiullah Wesa (2023/2648(RSP))

Marisa Matias

on behalf of The Left Group

B9-0205/2023

European Parliament resolution on the crackdown on the right to education and education rights activists in Afghanistan, including the case of Matiullah Wesa (2023/2648(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,

- A. Whereas the Taliban's systematic violation of the rights of women and girls since 2021 may amount to crimes against humanity; whereas women and girls continue to be denied their right to education, which has innumerable repercussions, including an increased exposure to violence, poverty and sexual exploitation;
- B. Whereas Matiullah Wesa has been arbitrarily arrested by the Taliban; whereas Mr Wesa is a prominent advocate for female education and founder of PenPath, an organization campaigning for education in Afghanistan; whereas his arrest followed that of other individuals deemed critical, notably women's rights activists and protesters;
 1. Strongly condemns the devastating regression of women's rights and the broader human rights situation in Afghanistan; urges the de facto authorities to reverse restrictions on the rights of women and girls in line with Afghanistan's international obligations, including by guaranteeing them an immediate and non-negotiable access to quality education at all levels;
 2. Strongly condemns the arrest of Matiullah Wesa and of all of those attacked and detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly; calls for their immediate and unconditional release; calls on the de facto authorities to guarantee all detainees the right to due process, including access to legal representation and contact with families;
 3. Deplores Taliban's repression of dissent, especially against human rights defenders, women's rights activists and journalists; calls on the de facto authorities to ensure an enabling environment for them to carry out their work unhindered and without fear of reprisal;
 4. Expresses grave concern about the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, which disproportionately affects women, girls and female-headed households; stresses that the crisis is exacerbated by restrictions on women's rights, such as the recent Taliban ban on Afghan women UN staff from working, international sanctions and the abrupt loss of foreign aid;
 5. Condemns the disastrous legacy of decades of international intervention and illegal occupations, including by NATO, which have led Afghanistan to its present circumstances; welcomes the decision of the ICC Office of the Prosecutor to resume the investigation into international crimes committed by all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan; calls on the EU to support the work of the ICC;

6. Welcomes the fact that the EU has followed the UN recommendations to implement the humanitarian exemption to international sanctions against Afghanistan in order to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid; calls on the EU to increase its contribution to humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan;
7. Calls on the EU facilitate the safe resettlement of Afghans at risk, including by increasing the granting of humanitarian visas, and to prioritise women and girls; calls on the EU Member States to support the application of the Temporary Protection Directive for Afghans seeking international protection;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the VP/HR, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the de facto authorities of Afghanistan, the ICC, the UN and NATO.