



Plenary sitting

B9-0210/2023

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))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

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 its previous resolutions on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular that of 24 November 2022,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions on Afghanistan of 20 March 2023,
 - having regard to the UNICEF call on de facto authorities to allow girls to return to secondary school in Afghanistan of 21 March 2023,
 - having regards to the comment by the UN Human Rights spokesperson on Afghanistan on 29 March 2023,
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas women and girls have faced growing restrictions to their fundamental rights since the Taliban takeover in access to education and employment, and freedom of movement; whereas women have been virtually erased from all areas of public life;
- B. whereas girls over 12 years old are denied an education in Afghanistan; whereas female students are banned from attending seventh grade and above; whereas this is a violation of the fundamental right to education as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- C. whereas Matiullah Wesa is head of the Pen Path organisation, which campaigns for the re-opening of schools for girls and women in Afghanistan and calls for their full access to education;
- D. whereas Matiullah Wesa was detained on 27 of March 2023 after evening prayers when leaving a mosque in Kabul by a group of armed men who claimed they represented the General Directorate for Intelligence;
- E. whereas on 29 March 2023 a Taliban representative confirmed that Matiullah Wesa was arrested and subject to investigation for illegal activity, which was not further elaborated;
- F. whereas international organisations have expressed alarm by ongoing arbitrary arrests and detentions of civil society activists in Afghanistan who speak out against discriminatory policies against girls and women;
1. Calls on the de facto authorities of Afghanistan to immediately and unconditionally release Matiullah Wesa from detention as well as other campaigners indiscriminately detained; demands that his rights need to be respected, including access to family members and legal representation;

2. Reminds its condemnation of the de facto authorities for their restrictions on the exercise of women and girl's rights, in particular the ban on secondary education for girls; reminds the Taliban's un-kept promise that women's access to education would be restored; calls on the Taliban to urgently reverse their repressive decisions on restricting women's and girls' education and to restore their full, equal and meaningful participation in public life;
3. Expresses strong support for the courageous and necessary work carried out by such activists and campaigners like Matiullah Wesa and his organisation; calls on the European Commission to consider how it can support the valuable work of activists campaigning for girls education in Afghanistan;
4. Calls on the EEAS to exert diplomatic pressure directly or indirectly with the de facto Taliban authorities to secure the release of Matiullah Wesa and other campaigners indiscriminately detained;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the VP/HR and the EU Special Envoy for Afghanistan.