



Plenary sitting

B9-0211/2023

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))

**Karol Karski, Angel Dzhambazki, Ryszard Czarnecki, Elżbieta Kruk,
Alexandr Vondra, Veronika Vrecionová, Assita Kanko, Witold Jan
Waszczykowski, Adam Bielan, Bogdan Rzońca, Elżbieta Rafalska,
Andżelika Anna Możdżanowska, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński,
Waldemar Tomaszewski, Anna Zalewska, Jan Zahradil, Zbigniew
Kuzmiuk, Ladislav Ilčić, Eugen Jurzyca**
on behalf of the ECR 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 the UN Security Council resolutions 2210 (2015), 2344 (2017), 2513 (2020) and 2593 (2021),
 - 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 Rule 132(2) and (4) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the policy of banning girls from receiving education past puberty was reintroduced just weeks after the Taliban came back into power, leading to a detrimental impact on the country of Afghanistan and restricts the basic rights of millions of people; whereas it appears to have come from Hibatullah Akhundzada, the ‘Supreme Leader of Afghanistan’, who has clearly outlined that this policy is essential to living in an Islamic society that adheres to Shari’a law;
- B. whereas Matiullah Wesa, founder of the organization PenPath, was abducted by the Taliban on 27 March outside a mosque in Kabul while his family was threatened and had their phones, computers and documents confiscated;
- C. whereas PenPath is a nongovernmental organization aiming to advance education across Afghanistan; Prior to the reinstatement of the Taliban regime it distributed books across rural Afghanistan and created schools in isolated communities to expand educational opportunities to those who previously lacked them; while PenPath’s mission was to advocate for all children, Wesa placed a special emphasis on advocating heavily for including girls in education upon the rise of the Taliban;
- D. whereas Matiullah Wesa’s current whereabouts, safety or conditions are unknown, despite a UN effort calling for clarification of the reasons for his arrest and information regarding his whereabouts;
1. Is deeply concerned about the humanitarian and human rights crisis that has been unfolding in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover; stresses that the basic rights and freedoms the Afghan people have enjoyed over the past 20 years should be upheld;
 2. Calls on Afghanistan to immediately and unconditionally release Matiullah Wesa and all human rights defenders, prisoners of conscience and journalists detained and sentenced merely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;

3. Deplores the fact that the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan has been steadily deteriorating since the Taliban takeover;
4. Condemns in the strongest terms terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and all terrorist acts;
5. Expresses solidarity with the women and human rights defenders protesting around Afghanistan against the Taliban takeover of the country and who want to live in a free, stable, peaceful and diverse society;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the European External Action Service, 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 Members of the Afghan National Assembly and the Taliban interim-government of Afghanistan.