



Plenary sitting

B9-0213/2023

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 risk of death penalty and execution of singer Yahaya Sharif Aminu for blasphemy in Nigeria
(2023/2650(RSP))

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, Hannah Neumann, Malte Gallée, Ignazio Corrao, Francisco Guerreiro, Monika Vana
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the risk of death penalty and execution of singer
Yahaya Sharif Aminu for blasphemy in Nigeria
(2023/2650(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rules 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas Yahaya Sharif-Aminu was given a death sentence on 10 August by a Sharia court in Kano state over a song shared on the social media and judged blasphemous;
 - B. whereas in January 2021, a higher court in Kano state overturned Sharif-Aminu's conviction and ordered his case to be retried due to irregularities; whereas in August 2022, a Court of Appeal upheld the constitutionality of the blasphemy law and affirmed the retrial order;
 - C. whereas Yahaya Sharif-Aminu approached the Supreme Court of Nigeria to challenge his conviction arguing that the blasphemy law under Kano State's Sharia Penal Code directly violates both Nigeria's own constitution and binding international human rights treaties;
 - D. whereas at least 12 northern Nigerian states follow Sharia law and have blasphemy laws, which greatly exacerbated religious tensions in Nigeria;
 - E. whereas international law prohibits any form of criminalization of blasphemy;
 - F. whereas the Nigerian Constitution, the African Charter and international law protect freedom of religion or belief;
 - 1. Strongly condemns the imprisonment and sentencing of Yahaya Sharif-Aminu and all act of violence and persecution on the grounds of belief or religion;
 - 2. Recalls that freedom of thought, conscience, belief and religion, are human rights protected under international law;
 - 3. Highlights that penal laws providing for the punishment of blasphemy, including the death penalty, is in flagrant violation of Nigeria's constitution as well as international human rights law that protects the exercise of the rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and of expression enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of which Nigeria is a party;
 - 4. Call on Nigerian competent authorities to release Mr Sharif-Aminu, to quash the death penalty verdict and drop all charges against him and guarantee his safety;
 - 5. Urge the Nigerian government to remove blasphemy from the penal code; to uphold the supremacy of the Constitution by bringing state laws and practices into conformity

with it and with Nigeria's obligations under international law; to end the impunity surrounding blasphemy accusations by bringing perpetrators of violence to justice and to observe a moratorium on the execution of death sentences.

6. Urge the governments of Nigeria to release all who are currently imprisoned for blasphemy, and ensure their safety from mob violence following release;
7. Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to belief or religious minorities everywhere in the world; calls on the EU and its Member States to intensify its political dialogue with the view to abolish blasphemy law or other accusations based on religious grounds;
8. Highlights that intercultural, interfaith and inter-religious dialogues is essential to building peace in Nigeria; calls on the EU to step up its support in the provision of legal assistance in human rights cases, through development cooperation and ongoing political and human rights dialogue;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the EU institutions, HRVP, the Member States, and Nigeria;