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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0214/2023**

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))

**Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius, Malik Azmani, Nicola Beer, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Catherine Chabaud, Olivier Chastel, Klemen Grošelj, Bernard Guetta, Svenja Hahn, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Nathalie Loiseau, Karen Melchior, Javier Nart, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Urmas Paet, Dragoș Pîslaru, Șamira Rafaela, Frédérique Ries, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Michal Šimečka, Ramona Strugariu, Dragoș Tudorache, Hilde Vautmans**  
on behalf of the Renew Group

**B9-0214/2023**

**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 Rule 144,
- A. whereas in March 2020, Yahaya Sharif Aminu composed and shared on social media a song containing allegedly derogatory comments attributed to the Prophet Muhammad, leading to his arrest and mob violence against his family;
- B. whereas on 10 August 2020, Yahaya Sharif Aminu was brought before an Upper Shari'a Court in Kano, where he was sentenced to death by hanging for alleged blasphemy;
- C. whereas on 27 August 2020, Kano state government published a statement that the Governor would not hesitate to sign the warrant for his execution;
- D. whereas on 3 September 2020, Yahaya Sharif Aminu filed an appeal, highlighting the presence of procedural irregularities, including the denial of access to legal representation; whereas his lawyers called the Kano State Shari'a Penal Code Law 2000 unconstitutional and in violation of Nigeria's national and international obligations;
- E. whereas on 21 January 2021, the Kano State High Court ordered a retrial on the grounds of procedural irregularities;
- F. whereas on 17 August 2022, the Court of Appeal upheld the retrial affirming that the Sharia Penal Code does not contravene Nigerian constitution;
- G. whereas Yahaya Sharif Aminu is at risk of being sentenced to death again if he is retried before the Shari'a Court and found guilty;
- H. whereas in November 2022, Yahaya Sharif Aminu filed an appeal at the Supreme Court, to challenge the constitutionality of the draconic blasphemy law of the Kano State,
- I. whereas Sharia law, practiced in many states in northern Nigeria, provides for death penalty for blasphemy even though Nigeria's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and federal law restrict the use of death penalty to the most serious crimes;
- 1. Urges the Nigerian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Yahaya Sharif Aminu and drop all charges against him and, pending his release, ensure he has immediate access to legal representation, fair treatment, medical care, and his safety;

2. Recalls that blasphemy laws are in clear breach of international human rights and are in contradiction to the Nigerian Constitution, which guarantees religious freedom; Calls on the Nigerian authorities to repeal draconic blasphemy laws at state and federal level, such as section 204 of the Criminal Code;
3. Recalls that Nigeria has immense influence throughout Africa and the Muslim world, and that this case is an unprecedented opportunity to lead the way towards abolishing blasphemy laws that plague religious minorities around the globe;
4. Calls on the Nigerian authorities to commit to observe a moratorium on the execution of death sentences while aiming towards full abolition of the death penalty;
5. Reiterates that the EU is unequivocally opposed to the use of capital punishment in all cases, under all circumstances;
6. Calls on the European Union and its Member States, as key development partners, to raise individual cases and human rights concerns with the Nigerian authorities and relevant State authorities;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Nigerian authorities and international institutions.