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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0216/2023**

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))

**Željana Zovko, David Lega, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Isabel Wiseler-Lima, Seán Kelly, Miriam Lexmann, Ivan Štefanec, Peter Pollák, Michaela Šojdrová, Krzysztof Hetman, Tomáš Zdechovský, Eugen Tomac**  
on behalf of the PPE 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 its previous resolutions of 18 January 2018 and 16 January 2020 on Nigeria,
  - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Nigeria on 29 July 1993,
  - having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocol No. 13,
  - having regard to the UN General Assembly resolutions for a moratorium on the death penalty and the statement made on 23 February 2023 by the UN High Commissioner For Human Rights urging abolition of the death penalty,
  - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Nigeria is one of seven countries in the world with criminal anti-blasphemy laws that carry the death penalty;
- B. whereas Mr Sharif-Aminu, a Nigerian musician, was sentenced to death by hanging on 10 August 2020, after being convicted of alleged blasphemy by the Upper Sharia Court of Kano State under Section 382(b) of the Kano Sharia Penal Code Law of 2000, for a song shared via WhatsApp;
- C. whereas on 21 January 2021, the Kano State High Court ordered a retrial on the grounds of procedural irregularities;
- D. whereas on 17 August 2022, the Court of Appeal upheld the constitutionality of the anti-blasphemy law and affirmed the retrial order;
- E. whereas Mr Sharif-Aminu petitioned Nigeria's Supreme Court in November 2022, while he remains in jail to this day;
1. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr Sharif-Aminu and for all charges against him to be dropped; calls on authorities to guarantee his due process rights pending his release;
  2. Highlights that the provision of death penalty for the offence of blasphemy contradicts the ICCPR, which protects the right to life, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and freedom of expression;
  3. Stresses that the EU is unequivocally opposed to capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances, as is also for blasphemy laws, since these are incompatible with

the values on which it is founded, which include respect for human rights, human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, and the rule of law;

4. Recalls the efforts by the international community to abolish the death penalty and urges Nigeria to actively take the necessary steps towards ending capital punishment;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European External Action Service, the African Union and the Government and National Assembly of Nigeria.