



Plenary sitting

B9-0244/2023

9.5.2023

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 media freedom and freedom of expression in Algeria, the case of Ihsane El-Kadi

(2023/2661(RSP))

Georgios Kyrtos, Petras Auštrevičius, Malik Azmani, Nicola Beer, Dita Charanzová, Olivier Chastel, Bernard Guetta, Svenja Hahn, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Karen Melchior, Urmas Paet, Dragoș Pîslaru, Frédérique Ries, Maria Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Michal Šimečka, Ramona Strugariu, Dragoș Tudorache, Hilde Vautmans
on behalf of the Renew Group

B9-0244/2023

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on media freedom and freedom of expression in Algeria, the case of Ihsane El-Kadi

(2023/2661(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Algeria,
 - having regard to Rules 144 of its Rules of Procedure;
- A. whereas Algeria ranked 134th out of 180 in the 2022 press freedom index of Reporters Without Borders; whereas the situation of media freedom and freedom of expression has been deteriorating substantially since the Hirak protests of 2019;
- B. whereas domestic and foreign media outlets that covered the Hirak protests of 2019, notably the case of Khaled Drareni, Al Arabiya and France24, faced legal charges and were deprived of their accreditation;
- C. whereas on April 2, 2023 prominent journalist Ihsanne El Kadi was sentenced to three years in prison on bogus charges of safeguarding national interest; whereas he was arrested without a warrant on 24 December, 2022 and his offices were sealed the day after without a warrant; whereas he was managing two independent media organizations which played an important role in the democratic life of the country, notably Algerian radio station Radio M and news website Maghreb Emergent;
1. calls upon Algerian authorities to release journalist Ihsanne El Kadi and all those detained as journalists and peaceful political activists;
 2. expresses its concern at legislative bills that would seek to further undermine and criminalise the protection of sources by journalists; calls on Algerian authorities to ensure a free, strong and independent media and to repeal penal code articles causing unjustified restrictions on press freedom, such as Law 20-06;
 3. calls on Algerian authorities to reform domestic law governing the conduct of journalism to ensure compliance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which it is a party;
 4. urges Algerian authorities to cooperate in the field of visa and accreditation authorization to foreign journalists, without undue delay, and guarantee their freedom to operate and move around the country without security services supervision;
 5. instructs its President to forward this resolution to the relevant parties and translate into Arabic.