



Plenary sitting

B9-0248/2023

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 journalist Ihsane El-Kadi
(2023/2661(RSP))

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on behalf of the ECR Group

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on media freedom and freedom of expression in Algeria, the case of journalist Ihsane El-Kadi (2023/2661(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Algeria,
- having regard to the press statement of 14 March 2023 of HR/VP Josep Borrell following his audience with President Abdelmajid Tebboune,
- having regard to the communication of 16 January 2023 of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression,
- having regard to the EU-Algeria Association Agreement,
- having regard to the shared partnership priorities adopted by Algeria and the EU,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,
- having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,

- A. whereas on 24 December 2022, Ihsane el-Kadi, a prominent Algerian journalist who ran Interface Médias, one of the last independent media enterprises in Algeria, with the online outlets Radio M and Maghreb Emergent, was arrested;
- B. whereas shortly before his arrest, El-Kadi had published an analysis of the Algerian political situation, highlighting the role of the army in the presidential elections;
- C. whereas on 2 April 2023, the Tribunal of Sidi M'hamed convicted El-Kadi to a five year sentence, of which two years suspended, accompanied by a fine of 700,000 Algerian dinars, on unfounded charges related to “foreign financing of his business”, and ordered the dissolution of the Interface Médias company and the confiscation of its assets and imposed a 10 million dinar fine on the company and 1 million dinar in compensation to the Audio-visual Regulatory Authority;
- D. whereas over the past two years, the Algerian authorities have prosecuted, arrested or detained at least 11 other journalists;
- E. whereas pretrial detention continues to be used punitively in Algeria to target journalists;

1. Condemns the crackdown on freedom of expression and press in Algeria, and calls on the Algerian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ihsane el-Kadi and all those detained or charged for exercising media freedom or the freedom of expression;
2. Asks the Algerian authorities to allow shuttered media to reopen and exercise their right to freedom of expression freely;
3. Urges the Algerian authorities to amend security-related charges in the Penal Code used to criminalise the right to freedom of expression and to review the Law on Audio-visual Activity to bring it into conformity with human rights standards;
4. Calls for the EU and the Member States to actively raise the case of Mr El-Kadi and other detained media workers and Algerians detained, harassed or sentenced merely for exercising the freedom of expression, with Algerian authorities;
5. Asks the EU delegation and Member States embassies in Algeria to request access to detained journalists and to monitor their trials;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the VP/HR, the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and the Government and Parliament of Algeria.