



Plenary sitting

B9-0282/2023

13.6.2023

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 deterioration of fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong, notably the case of Jimmy Lai
(2023/2737(RSP))

Pedro Marques, Isabel Santos, René Repasi, Evin Incir
on behalf of the S&D Group

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the deterioration of fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong, notably the case of Jimmy Lai (2023/2737(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to all its previous resolutions on Hong Kong,
 - having regard to Rules 144(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Whereas the deterioration of fundamental freedoms in Hong-Kong has seriously aggravated since the entry into force of the National Security Law (NSL);
- B. Whereas Jimmy Lai was detained since December 2020 for violation of the NSL, based on alleged collusion with foreign forces and fraud; whereas he faces a possible life sentence with his trial starting on 25 September 2023; whereas his British lawyer was barred from representing him under the NSL; whereas his independent media outlets, Apple Daily and Stand News, and others have been subjects of harassment from the government and were forced to cease operations;
1. Urges the Hong-Kong Government to immediately and unconditionally release Jimmy Lai; denounces all dubious charges against him; stresses Jimmy Lai's right to a fair trial; fully supports in this respect the unprecedented joint statement of 116 media leaders from around the world and Reporters Without Borders calling for his release;
 2. Reiterates its firm condemnation against the closure of Apple Daily and Stand News and against the persistent attacks on independent media in violation of the article 27 of the city's Basic Law;
 3. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners and arbitrarily detained journalists, Human Rights defenders, lawyers and individuals, including Ms Chow Hang-Tung and Albert Ho, who are prosecuted for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression and defending the press freedom;
 4. Expresses its concerns about the extraterritorial application of the NSL; calls on the authorities to stop impeding the work of foreign correspondents and to restore the freedom of speech and the media freedom, in particular by repealing the NSL which is in breach of the international law;
 5. Calls on the EU Institutions and the Member States to systematically raise the cases of journalists and press freedom defenders in Hong-Kong with the authorities; calls on the EEAS to continue conducting and stepping up trial observation and human rights monitoring; urges the EU member states not to apply their bilateral Mutual Legal Assistance Agreements with Hong Kong in the implementation of the NSL; calls on EU member states to address the transnational repression against human rights defenders and other diaspora of Hong Kong origin; calls on EU and the Member States to file a case in the International

Court of Justice against China's decision to impose the NSL in Hong Kong and Macau, in violation of the Sino-British and Portuguese Joint Declarations and the ICCPR.

6. Condemns the arrests of individuals, including opposition leaders, who were peacefully commemorating the anniversary of the brutal repression of Tiananmen Square;
7. Recalls the importance of the EU continuing to raise the issue of human rights violations in China at every opportunity with the authorities;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the EU Institutions, the governments and parliaments of Hong-Kong and of China, and asks that it be translated into Chinese.