



Plenary sitting

B9-0286/2023

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

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on behalf of the Renew Group

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Hong Kong,
 - having regard to Rules 144(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Whereas Hong Kong is bound by international law and has legal obligations to respect the rights to freedom of information, expression and association, as well as to guarantee due process;
- B. Whereas since the implementation of the PRCs National Security Law (NSL), Hong Kong has seen a dramatic decline in media freedom, with journalists arrested, jailed and threatened;
- C. Whereas Jimmy Lai, founder of the pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily, was arrested in February 2020 for an unauthorized assembly and has since been convicted in 4 criminal cases involving his pro-democracy protests and sentenced to a total of 47 months in prison; Whereas Lai now faces additional national security charges that could see him spend the rest of his life in prison;
- D. whereas respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law should remain at the centre of the relationship between the EU and China;
1. Condemns the increasing suppression of civil rights in Hong Kong, and reiterates its solidarity with those people fighting for freedom and democracy;
 2. Urges the Hong Kong government to release Jimmy Lai and drop the charges against him and all those who have been imprisoned for exercising their human rights;
 3. Call on the Hong Kong authorities to stop using politically motivated prosecutions and other legal procedures against democracy defenders and deter people from exercising their human rights;
 4. Stresses that the NSL undermines trust between China and the EU and undermines future cooperation, while significantly damaging Hong Kong and Macao's international status;
 5. Urges the Chinese authorities to follow the UN HRC recommendations and immediately repeal the current NSL;
 6. Calls on the Chinese authorities to fully respect the exercise of human rights, in particular freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and to ensure that legal provisions aimed at protecting national security are conforming to international law;

7. Condemns attempts by Chinese authorities to target Hong Kong diaspora communities within the EU; reiterates its call on all EU Member States to suspend extradition treaties with the PRC and Hong Kong;
8. Calls on the Council to introduce targeted sanctions under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime against Hong Kong and PRC officials responsible for the ongoing human rights crackdown;
9. Calls on the EU and its Member States to support an urgent debate in the UN Human Rights Council on the implementation of the NSL in Hong Kong and to adopt a resolution on the creation of a UN reporting mechanism, in line with calls by civil society organizations;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to VP/HR, the Government and Parliament of the PRC, and the Chief Executive and the Assembly of Hong Kong;