



Plenary sitting

B9-0333/2023

11.7.2023

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 Crackdown on the media and freedom of expression in Kyrgyzstan
(2023/2782(RSP))

**Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Jordi Solé, Ignazio Corrao, Markéta
Gregorová, Mounir Satouri, Heidi Hautala, Alviina Alametsä, Nicolae
Ștefănuță**
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the Crackdown on the media and freedom of expression in Kyrgyzstan
(2023/2782(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Kyrgyzstan,
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Whereas the overall situation of human rights in Kyrgyzstan has deteriorated alarmingly since January 2022; whereas Kyrgyzstan, formerly known for its relatively active human rights defenders and journalists in the region, has seen its government become increasingly hostile to civil society;
- B. whereas a number of recent laws are targeting nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and independent media; whereas the law on “False information” allows authorities to arbitrarily and extrajudicially remove information considered to be “false” or “inaccurate” from online platforms; whereas the law on “Protecting children from harmful information” prohibits information considered “harmful” to children’s health, specifically concerning “non-traditional sexual relationships”;
- C. whereas the Kyrgyz Parliament is currently discussing two additional restrictive draft laws; whereas the draft law on “Mass media” dictates vague prohibitions on certain types of information, including concerning same-sex marriage; whereas the draft law on “Foreign representatives” mirrors Russian legislation and would require NGOs receiving foreign funding to register as “foreign representatives” as well as allow the state to interfere in their internal affairs and arbitrarily suspend their activities;
1. Urges the Kyrgyz Parliament to reject the draft laws on “Mass media” and “Foreign representatives” and move to repeal the laws on “False information” and on “Protecting children from harmful information”;
 2. Stresses that these draft laws, if adopted, will further worsen the situation of media and civil society in Kyrgyzstan and echo the concern expressed by the OSCE that they will significantly harm freedom of expression;
 3. Warns that the adoption of these draft laws would put Kyrgyzstan further at odds with its international human rights commitments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; considers that if these draft laws are adopted, this would warrant a review of the EU’s mutual cooperation and assistance programmes with Kyrgyzstan;
 4. Deplores the homophobic intentions behind some of these legislative initiatives and echoes Human Rights Watch’ assessment that the law on the Protection of Children will in fact be detrimental to children’s rights;

5. Calls on the EU Delegation in Kyrgyzstan and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' Regional Office for Central Asia to proactively engage with the Kyrgyz authorities on applicable international human rights standards in the context of these legislative initiatives;
6. Condemns the treatment of journalists and human rights defenders in Kyrgyzstan; in this regard calls on the Kyrgyz authorities to reinstate the citizenship rights of prominent anti-corruption journalist Bolot Temirov and drop all charges against him; similarly, calls for all charges to be dropped in the case of environmental and human rights defenders Gulnara Dzhurabayeva, Klara Sooronkulova, Rita Karasartova and Asya Sasykbayeva;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the VP/HR, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, EU Delegation in Kyrgyzstan, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Regional Office for Central Asia, and the President, Government and Parliament of Kyrgyzstan.