



Plenary sitting

B9-0336/2023

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))

Pedro Marques, Tonino Picula, Karsten Lucke
on behalf of the S&D 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 and the country has dramatically dropped in the freedom of press index;
- B. Whereas Kyrgyzstan, formerly known for its strong and active human rights defenders, journalists, and lawyers in the region, has become increasingly hostile to the civil society and media;
- C. Whereas as a current Member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the Kyrgyz Republic has committed to uphold the universal human rights internationally and its regression towards authoritarianism, its disregard for media freedom and free expression and its restrictions on civil society are incompatible with its membership in the UNHRC;
1. Urges the government of Kyrgyzstan to withdraw the four draft laws impacting human rights currently under consideration: the draft law on Mass Media; the draft law on Non-profit NGOs; the draft amendments on "Foreign Representatives", and the "Protection of Children from Harmful Information Law", the so-called "LGBTI propaganda law", which, if passed, are widely expected to have a further detrimental effect on human rights in the country;
 2. Condemns the forced closure of Azattyk Radio (RFE/RL) in Kyrgyzstan this spring as an act of censorship of an independent media voice and a dangerous infringement of the freedom of expression;
 3. Urges the European Commission to ensure that the EU's programmes and initiatives are not compromised by the proposed laws, which may limit freedom of expression and curtail the activities of NGOs;
 4. Regrets the recent early dismissal of the Kyrgyz Ombudswoman Ms Atyr Abdrakhmatova; considers it to be of critical importance to fully respect the Paris Principles on standards for National Human Rights Institutions;
 5. Recalls with concern the case of a prominent anti-corruption journalist Bolot Temirov, who was stripped of his Kyrgyzstani passport in November 2022 and deported to Russia for his legitimate journalistic work; calls for the reinstatement of

his citizenship and dropping of all charges against him;

6. Calls on the Kyrgyz authorities to immediately drop charges against environmental rights activists, including female human rights defenders Gulnara Dzhurabayeva, Klara Sooronkulova, Rita Karasartova and Asya Sasykbayeva, targeted since October 2022 for calling for transparency with regards to the government's decision to transfer the Kempir Abad water reserve from Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan;
7. Calls on the European Union's institutions to raise its grave concern with the deterioration of human rights in the country in all its exchanges with the authorities of Kyrgyzstan and to reassess the GSP+ benefits to the country, if it continues to violate its commitments to the international conventions;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UNHRC the OSCE, the President, Government and Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic.