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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0384/2023**

12.9.2023

## 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 on the human rights situation in Bangladesh, notably the case of Odikhar (2023/2833(RSP))

**Anna Fotyga, Karol Karski, Angel Dzhambazki, Ryszard Czarnecki, Andżelika Anna Możdżanowska, Elżbieta Rafalska, Bogdan Rzońca, Alexandr Vondra, Veronika Vrecionová, Assita Kanko, Anna Zalewska, Adam Bielan, Witold Jan Waszczykowski, Elżbieta Kruk, Eugen Jurzyca, Waldemar Tomaszewski, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on on the human rights situation in Bangladesh, notably the case of Odikhar (2023/2833(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Bangladesh,
  - having regard to the EU-Bangladesh Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development,
  - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the EU has long-standing relations with Bangladesh, being partners on a wide range of issues, including security;
- B. whereas human rights defenders, civil society and religious minorities in Bangladesh continue to face mass discrimination, which in some cases includes surveillance, physical attacks, judicial harassment, arbitrary arrest and various other forms of intimidation;
- C. whereas there are concerning reports that the Cyber Security Act (CSA), meant to replace the Digital Security Act (DSA), is reportedly to be used to target journalists and human rights defenders;
- D. whereas the human rights organization Odhikar has been seeking renewal of its registration since September 2014, when it was deregistered by the Bangladesh government due to its publication of a fact-finding report on enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions, and whereas the Dhaka Cyber Tribunal rescheduled to 14 September 2023 the delivery of the judgment against Odhikar officials Adilur Rahman Khan and ASM Nasiruddin Elan for publishing this material;
- E. whereas the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk urged to ensure that rights to due process and fair trial are strictly and consistently applied;
1. Calls on the Bangladesh authorities to create a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and other civil society representatives, and to end the use of excessive force against protesters and stop arbitrary arrests of protesters;
  2. Calls on the Bangladesh government to make sure that the digital law fully complies with international human rights law and to immediately and unconditionally release and drop all charges against all those accused for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression;
  3. Asks the Bangladesh authorities to immediately rescind the decision to arbitrarily deregister the NGO Odhikar and the persecution of its officials;
  4. Urges the VP/HR, the Commission and the Member States to systematically raise human rights concerns with Bangladesh at the highest level and calls on the

Commission to reiterate to the authorities of Bangladesh that Bangladesh's Everything But Arms arrangement under the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences is dependent on significant improvements of the situation of human rights in the country;

5. 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 and the Government and Parliament of Bangladesh.