European Parliament

2019-2024



Plenary sitting

B9-0508/2023

12.12.2023

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 abduction of Tibetan children and forced assimilation practices through Chinese boarding schools in Tibet (2023/3025(RSP))

Stelios Kouloglou

on behalf of the the Left Group

B9-0508/2023

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on The abduction of Tibetan children and forced assimilation practices through Chinese boarding schools in Tibet (2023/3025(RSP))

The European Parliament,

having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas on the 6th of February 2023 UN experts warned on the risk that around a million children of the Tibetan minority were being affected by Chinese government policies aimed at assimilating Tibetan people culturally, religiously and linguistically through a residential school system;

- B. whereas according to this report "the residential school system for Tibetan children appears to act as a mandatory large-scale programme intended to assimilate Tibetans into majority Han culture, contrary to international human rights standards"
- C. whereas on November 2023, government official from China's Tibetan region rejected allegations of forced assimilation and curbs on religious freedom, while stressing that Tibetan Buddhism should adapt to the Chinese context; whereas according to the government China has opened the schools to improve education for children from remote areas:
- D. whereas according to the UN between 2010 and 2019, nine Tibetan human rights defenders were imprisoned in the course of their peaceful work to protect the area's fragile environment;
- 1. Regrets the alleged separation of Tibetan Children from their families and shares the concerns of the UN regarding alleged forced assimilation of the Tibetan identity into the dominant majority in terms of language, culture and education and the situation of those who defend them;
- 2. Recognizes that education for all it is not only a right but also a duty; stresses, therefore, the importance of a public education system; recognises secularism as an essential value and therefore the separation of the education system from any religious pressure or discrimination;
- 3. Calls on Chinese authorities to release all human rights defenders in Tibet who exercise peacefully their activities; calls on the People's Republic of China to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- 4. Expresses its concern about the lack of strategic autonomy on the part of the EU and the alignment of the EU's foreign policy on US and stresses that it would be in the EU's interest not to fuel the growing tensions between the US and China but rather to defend a voice of peace and mutual development at the international level; urges that

the relations of the EU and its Member States with China should be based on the respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and International Law;

5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution