European Parliament

2019-2024



Plenary sitting

B9-0512/2023

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))

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B9-0512/2023

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 its previous resolutions on the PRC and especially Tibet,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989,
- having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the promotion of and respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law should be at the centre of the EU's relations with China, in line with the EU's commitment to uphold these values in its external action and China's commitment to adhere to them in its own development and international cooperation;
- B. Whereas approximately one million Tibetan children are subjected to Chinese government policies aimed at forcefully assimilating them culturally, religiously, and linguistically into the Han majority society through a residential school system from the age of 4; whereas there are no real alternatives to Chinese boarding schools and families are coerced into enrolling their children there; whereas such boarding schools are reportedly heavily surveilled;
- C. Whereas UN experts are concerned that, as a result of this mandatory large-scale and highly politicised program, Tibetan children are losing the ability to speak their native language and communicate easily with their families, contributing to the erosion of their individual and social identity, which goes against international human rights standards;
- D. Whereas researchers have shown that Tibetan boarding school students experience great emotional and psychological distress, including extreme feelings of loneliness and isolation, as a result of being separated from their families, communities, and culture;
- 1. Expresses its serious concerns about the repressive assimilation policies throughout the PRC and especially in Tibet, which seek to eliminate the distinct linguistic, cultural, and religious traditions among younger generations of Tibetans and other minorities;
- 2. Calls for the immediate abolishment of the coerced residential boarding school system in Tibet, which compels children to undergo a compulsory education in Mandarin Chinese, without any opportunity for substantive study of the Tibetan language, history, and culture; further calls on the PRC's authorities to allow the establishment of private Tibetan schools;
- 3. Urges the Member States and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP) to swiftly adopt targeted sanctions on high-ranking PRC officials who are responsible for such forcible assimilation of Tibetan children, as well as other minorities, including the Uyghurs;

- 4. Calls the Member States and the HR/VP to request from the Chinese government permits for European diplomats to visit boarding schools across Tibet;
- 5. Recalls the importance of the EU raising the issue of human rights violations in China, particularly boarding schools in Tibet, during political and human rights dialogues with the Chinese authorities;
- 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the HR/VP, the Member States, the United Nations, and to the Government and Parliament of the People's Republic of China.

