



Plenary sitting

**B9-0378/2023 }
B9-0380/2023 }
B9-0381/2023 }
B9-0382/2023 }
B9-0383/2023 }
B9-0384/2023 } RC1**

13.9.2023

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rules 144(5) and 132(4) of the Rules of Procedure

replacing the following motions:

B9-0378/2023 (The Left)

B9-0380/2023 (Verts/ALE)

B9-0381/2023 (Renew)

B9-0382/2023 (S&D)

B9-0383/2023 (PPE)

B9-0384/2023 (ECR)

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

**Ivan Štefanec, Tomáš Zdechovský, David Lega, Isabel Wiseler-Lima,
Janina Ochojska, Vladimír Bilčík, Andrey Kovatchev, Vangelis
Meimarakis, Michaela Šojdrová, Eugen Tomac, Jiří Pospíšil, Peter Pollák,
Inese Vaidere**
on behalf of the PPE Group

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PE748.923v01-00 }
PE748.925v01-00 }
PE748.926v01-00 }
PE748.927v01-00 }
PE748.928v01-00 }
PE748.929v01-00 } RC1

Pedro Marques, Karsten Lucke, Carina Ohlsson

on behalf of the S&D Group

Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Dita Charanzová, Bernard Guetta, Svenja Hahn, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Karen Melchior, Urmas Paet, Dragoș Pîslaru, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Ramona Strugariu, Dragoș Tudorache, Hilde Vautmans, Frédérique Ries

on behalf of the Renew Group

Heidi Hautala, Hannah Neumann

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Anna Fotyga, Karol Karski, Angel Dzhambazki, Ryszard Czarnecki, Bogdan Rzońca, Elżbieta Rafalska, Assita Kanko, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Witold Jan Waszczykowski, Waldemar Tomaszewski, Anna Zalewska, Adam Bielan, Eugen Jurzyca, Elżbieta Kruk, Carlo Fidanza

on behalf of the ECR Group

Marisa Matias

on behalf of The Left Group

Fabio Massimo Castaldo

European Parliament resolution on the human rights situation in Bangladesh, notably the case of Odhikar (2023/2833(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rules 144(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the human rights situation in Bangladesh has severely deteriorated, including with regard to extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, freedom of expression and workers' rights;
- B. whereas Odhikar, a leading human rights organisation, has faced over a decade of harassment and criminalisation, including being deregistered as an NGO; whereas two Odhikar leaders, Adilur Rahman Khan and ASM Nasiruddin Elan, face trumped-up criminal charges, with a ruling scheduled for 14 September 2023; whereas the failure to follow due process in the case has drawn widespread condemnation;
- C. whereas UN bodies and the High Commissioner for Human Rights have condemned the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and Bangladeshi judiciary for persistently intimidating and harassing human rights defenders (HRDs) and civil society activists, including when such figures engage with the UN;
- 1. Expresses deep concern at the deteriorating human rights situation in Bangladesh; insists that the GoB restore a safe and enabling environment for NGOs, HRDs, activists and religious minorities and uphold the country's international commitments, particularly under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- 2. Urges the GoB to immediately and unconditionally drop all charges against Odhikar's representatives and reinstate its registration, and to ensure that civil society organisations can access approved foreign grants;
- 3. Encourages the GoB to cooperate with the UN on establishing a specialised mechanism to investigate the allegations of enforced disappearances; insists that international observers be permitted to attend court hearings;
- 4. Recalls that an Everything but Arms (EBA) enhanced engagement process remains ongoing with Bangladesh owing to its serious violations of international conventions; is concerned that the Odhikar case is a regrettable step back, bearing consequences as to whether EBA preferences continue to apply to Bangladesh;
- 5. Is appalled by the violent murder of the trade unionist Shahidul Islam in June 2023 and calls for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- 6. Urges the GoB to comply with core International Labour Organization standards and implement its labour roadmap, as per its commitment within the enhanced engagement

process;

7. Calls again on the GoB to repeal the Digital Security Act and encourages it to adopt cybersecurity legislation that fully complies with international standards;
8. Is concerned by the mass arrests of opposition representatives and the excessive use of force against protesters in Bangladesh; calls on the GoB to guarantee the conditions for free, fair and participatory elections in 2024; underlines that unhindered domestic and international observation is a key international standard;
9. Calls on the European External Action Service, the EU Delegation and the Member States' embassies in Bangladesh to raise human rights concerns at the highest levels and increase their support for local HRDs, union workers and journalists under attack, including by monitoring trials;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Government and Parliament of Bangladesh.