



Plenary sitting

B9-0207/2023

18.4.2023

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 right to education and education rights activists in Afghanistan, including the case of Matiullah Wesa

(2023/2648(RSP))

Hannah Neumann, Tineke Strik, Erik Marquardt, Alviina Alametsä, Ignazio Corrao, Pär Holmgren, Jakob G. Dalunde, Alice Kuhnke, Mounir Satouri, Rosa D'Amato, Thomas Waitz, Ernest Urtasun, Monika Vana, Heidi Hautala

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

B9-0207/2023

European Parliament resolution on the crackdown on the right to education and education rights activists in Afghanistan, including the case of Matiullah Wesa (2023/2648(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its rule 144;

- A. whereas Afghan education activist Matiullah Wesa was arrested along with several of his family members on 27 March 2023 by Taliban forces; whereas Wesa remains detained without access to his family, nor the possibility to challenge the legality of his detention;
- B. Whereas dozens of activists and protestors have been arbitrarily arrested and detained under the Taliban in relation to their defence of human rights, notably the right to education;
- C. Whereas the Taliban plan to revise the curriculum in public schools towards a „new Djihadi curriculum“ and to develop a nation-wide network of religious schools;
- D. Whereas the recent banning of women and girls from all education beyond the primary level, access to parks, restaurants, gyms, public baths and working for national and international NGOs and the UN constitutes a gross discrimination of their fundamental rights and may amount to gender persecution, a crime against humanity, according to the UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan;
 1. Condemns the arbitrary detention of Matiullah Wesa by the Taliban and calls for his immediate and unconditional release, as well as that of all other human rights defenders and protestors arbitrarily arrested including Narges Sadat, Fardin Fedayee, Zekria Asoli, Mortaza Behboudi and Muhammad Yar Majroh;
 2. Remains gravely concerned about the humanitarian and human rights crises that continue to unfold in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover;
 3. Condemns the unlawful decision by the Taliban to prohibit Afghan women from working with the UN, which jeopardizes the critical work of the organisation in the country;
 4. Denounces, once again, the egregious ban on secondary education for girls; reiterates its demand that the Taliban immediately allow girls of all ages to attend school and receive education on an equal basis with boys; calls on the Taliban to reverse plans to revise the school curriculum and replace regular schools by madrassas;
 5. Urges the EU to step up its support to Afghan groups working to defend the rights of women and girls, including alternative education options, and to fund specific assistance and protection programmes, including via online and community education, and by funding scholarships and ensuring expedited issuance of visas to Afghan students and academics who are awarded EU scholarships;

6. Calls on the VP/HR and the Council to launch a global initiative for ensuring accountability for the unparalleled gender persecution and other egregious human rights violations by the Taliban, including by expanding EU restrictive measures against all entities and individuals responsible for these violations and violence against women and girls, and by activating all available accountability mechanisms under international human rights treaties and establishing an independent investigative mechanism under the UN Human Rights Council;
7. Insists on maintaining a strict conditional engagement with the Taliban in accordance to the five benchmarks set by the Council for engagement with the de facto authorities, including in relation to women and girls' rights;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the relevant parties.