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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0242/2023**

9.5.2023

## **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** media freedom and freedom of expression in Algeria, the case of journalist Ihsane El-Kadi

(2023/2661(RSP))

**Jordi Solé, Rosa D'Amato, Francisco Guerreiro, Tineke Strik, Bronis Ropé, Hannah Neumann, Ignazio Corrao, Mounir Satouri, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**B9-0242/2023**

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on media freedom and freedom of expression in Algeria, the case of journalist Ihsane El-Kadi**

**(2023/2661(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rules 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Ihsane El-Kadi, a prominent journalist, was arrested and imprisoned on 24 December 2022 after having published articles critical of Algerian authorities; whereas on 2 April 2023 an Algerian court sentenced El-Kadi to five years in prison and ordered the closure of his media outlets Radio M and Maghreb Emergent, one of the last remaining independent media in Algeria; whereas El-Kadi was convicted on fabricated charges for receiving funds from abroad for propaganda purposes and for threatening the security of the state;
- B. whereas in reaction to the popular Hirak protest movement that started in 2019 Algerian authorities are cracking down on dissent; whereas since November 2022 Algerian leadership shut down at least three media outlets and over the past two years prosecuted, arrested or detained at least 11 other media workers, including Mustapha Bendjama and Abdou Semmar; whereas according to reporters without borders the journalistic landscape in Algeria has never before deteriorated to this extent;
  1. Expresses its deep concern about the serious deterioration of press freedom, rule of law and human rights in Algeria; condemns the gradual closure of the media field and the criminalisation and targeted repression against journalists;
  2. Urges the Algerian authorities to respect and uphold fundamental freedoms, notably press freedom, as embedded in article 54 of the Algerian Constitution and to immediately and unconditionally release and acquit Ihsane El Kadi and all other journalists and individuals detained or sentenced for exercising their rights to freedom of expression;
  3. Calls on the Algerian government to cease verbal threats against journalists, reopen shuttered media outlets, allow the audio-visual regulatory authority to independently issue licences to news channels and permit the allocation of frequency bands to private radio stations;
  4. Encourages Algerian authorities to amend security-related charges in the Penal Code that are used to criminalize the right to freedom of expression, including Article 95 bis and Article 196 bis; calls on Algeria not to enact those parts of the new media law approved on 13 April that contravene the constitution's provisions on freedom of expression;
  5. Calls on all EU institutions and Member States to strongly and openly condemn the Algerian authorities' crackdown on media workers, to demand the release of all those

arbitrarily detained and to insist that the media is allowed to operate freely; asks the European Commission and EU Member States to insist that foreign journalists be issued visas and accreditation in Algeria and are allowed to carry out their work;

6. Calls on the European Commission to establish new Partnership Priorities with Algeria and insist on a commitment from the Algerian government for tangible improvements in the respect for fundamental freedoms, human rights and the rule of law;
7. Calls on the EU delegation and Member States embassies in Algeria to request access to imprisoned journalists and observe their trials;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the EU institutions, HRVP, the Member States, and Algeria;