

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

4.9.2007

B6-0339/2007

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jules Maaten, Frédérique Ries, Marco Cappato, Marco Pannella, Marios Matsakis

on behalf of the ALDE Group

on Burma

European Parliament resolution on Burma

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions of 12 May 2005, 17 November 2005, 14 December 2006 and 21 June 2007 on Burma,
 - having regard to the EU General Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders (2004),
 - having regard to the statement by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of 25 May 2007 calling for 'restrictions on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political figures' to be lifted,
 - having regard to the eighth ASEM Foreign Ministers' meeting held in Germany on 28-29 May 2007,
 - having regard to the Chairman's statement made at the 12th ASEAN Summit, in which ASEAN leaders encouraged Burma 'to make greater progress towards national reconciliation, and called 'for the release of those placed under detention and for effective dialogue with all parties concerned',
 - having regard to the letter of 15 May 2007 to General Than Shwe, signed by 59 former Heads of State, calling for 'the immediate release of the world's only imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi',
 - having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 481/2007 of 27 April 2007(4) renewing restrictive measures against Burma,
 - having regard to the 17th anniversary of the victory of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in the parliamentary elections of 27 May 1990,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on August 15, 2007, the Ruling State Peace and Development Council (SDDC) hiked the price of fuel as much as 500 percent, in response several hundred people took part in peaceful demonstrations in Rangoon against the move,
- B. whereas large protests where already held and future demonstrations are expected,
- C. whereas the government has arrested several organisers and participants of the August 2007 protests, including some of the government's most prominent critics,

- D. deeply concerned following reports of the arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights defenders and students leaders such as : Paw U Tun, Ko Ko Gyi, Pyone Cho, Min Ze Ya, and Htay Kywe, leading human rights defender and HIV/AIDS educator, Phyu Phyu Thinn along with U Myint Aye, leader of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters (HRDP) and U Ohn Than, members of the National League for Democracy including U Tun Myint, U Kyi Phyu, U Myo Khin, U Tin Myint, U Tin Zaw, Oo, U Lay Lwin, U Zaw Zaw Aung, U Ko Ye, Tin Maung Oo, Aung Min Naing, U Phyo Min Kyin, U Khin Aye (Daw), U Myint Thein,
 - E. extremely concerned that the above-mentioned events form part of an ongoing campaign against human rights defenders in Myanmar who are being targeted for their legitimate activities in defence of human rights in the country,
 - F. expressing its concern for the physical and psychological integrity of those arrested particularly in high of reports that they may be subjected to torture and ill-treatment,
 - G. recalling that the NDL leader, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Sakharov Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has spent 11 of the last 17 years under house arrest, and on 25 May 2007 the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) extended her illegal detention for another year,
 - H. whereas the SPDC continues to subject the people of Burma to appalling human rights abuses, such as forced labour, persecution of dissidents, ethnic minorities such as the Chin, Mon, Nagas, Shan and Karens, conscription of child soldiers and forced relocation,
 - I. whereas 30% of Burma's population, an estimated 15 million people, are subsisting below the poverty line,
 - J. whereas, according to a recent report by Amnesty International and the NGO Safer World, the Indian government is planning to transfer an advanced light helicopter (ALH) and technology from as many as six European Union countries which could threaten to undermine the EU arms embargo on Myanmar,
 - K. whereas greater attention has to be given to the end-use agreements and the re-export of components from EU Member States,
1. Urges the authorities in Myanmar to release the above-mentioned human rights defenders as it is believed they have been detained solely on account of their peaceful and legitimate work in defence of human rights;
 2. Calls on the authorities of Myanmar to take measures to ensure that all human rights defenders carrying out their legitimate work in human rights are able to operate without fear or reprisals and free of all restrictions and harassment;

3. Believes that the EU must stand by its obligations to prevent its military equipment being used in Myanmar and calls on the Indian Government to stop this transfer;
4. In this context, insists that all Member States rigorously apply the restrictive measures already agreed;
5. Reiterates its demand for the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi;
6. Condemns the SPDC's unremitting oppression of the Burmese people and its persistent persecution and imprisonment of pro-democracy activists;
7. Deplores the fact that, despite the condition of the country, regional and international criticism and forty-five years of rule, the SPDC has failed to make any substantial progress towards democracy;
8. Urges the legitimisation of the National Convention, through inclusion of the NLD and other political parties and groups, and that the National Convention adopt a roadmap to democracy that reflects the genuine wishes of the Burmese people instead of consolidating the military's stranglehold on power;
9. Strongly supports the renewal of EU targeted sanctions but recognises that they have failed to achieve the desired impact on those directly responsible for the suffering of the Burmese people; calls on the Council to ensure that all Member States rigorously apply existing restrictive measures;
10. Calls on the Council to expand the scope of the sanctions and to enlarge the list of those targeted, so that it includes all SPDC ministers, deputies, members, supporters and workers, in addition to their family members, and businessmen and other prominent individuals associated with the regime;
11. Notes that, in accordance with the Council Common Position 2006/318/CFSP of 27 April 2006 renewing restrictive measures against Burma, support is limited to humanitarian aid and assistance for those most in need; insists that all aid destined for Burma must be delivered through genuine NGOs and must reach the people for whom it is intended, with the least possible involvement of the SPDC;
12. Suggests in this context that all possible efforts be made to enhance contacts and to design programmes focusing on Burmese civil society, notably women's groups and ethnic minorities;
13. Regrets that China and Russia, supported by South Africa, vetoed a UN Security Council draft resolution on Burma on 12 January 2007 and calls on the UN Security Council to redouble efforts to obtain unanimous backing for a binding resolution requiring the release of political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi;
14. Calls on the Member States Foreign Ministers to discuss measures for strengthening the EU Common Position on Burma at the next GAERC on 7/8 September;

15. Urges the governments of the UK, France, Belgium, Italy, and Slovakia, that are all members of the Security Council, to make a concerted effort to introduce, and obtain unanimous backing for, a binding resolution in regard to Burma, including the release of Aung San Suu Kyi;
16. Urges the governments of all EU Member States that are members of the United Nations Human Rights Council to make a concerted effort to introduce and obtain support for a resolution on Burma at the next session of the Council in September;
17. Calls on Ibrahim Gambari, appointed as Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on Burma in May, to visit Rangoon, and other parts of Burma, as a matter of urgency, ensuring that he has the opportunity to meet Aung San Suu Kyi, and other leading members of the Opposition, as well as regime figures;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the governments of the ASEAN nations, the National League for Democracy of Burma, the State Peace and Development Council of Burma, the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of India, the Government of Russia, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.