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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 Brian Crowley, Ewa Tomaszewska, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski,
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on behalf of the UEN Group

on East Timor

European Parliament resolution on East Timor

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on East Timor,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the unrest which started in April 2006 with the dismissal of nearly 600 soldiers from country's 1,400-strong military force escalated to a wider conflict and led to widespread gang and ethnic violence, mainly in the capital Dili, and 150 000 people relocated in fear,
- B. whereas on 11 February 2008 rebel soldiers seriously wounded country's President José Ramos Horta by gunfire; whereas on the same day Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, who was also attacked but not hurt, considered these as attacks on State institutions and imposed a curfew throughout the country,
- C. whereas these hideous attacks to Timorese democracy and leadership are still a consequence of the April 2006 crisis, making it evident that national authorities and international forces were unable in the meantime to insure public order and full respect of the rule of law in the country,
- D. whereas this continuing crisis exposes fundamental problems in the security sector and lack of transparency in political control and parliamentary and judicial oversight of police and army,
- E. whereas the poor state of the East Timor economy, with 40% of the country's population living below the poverty line, massive unemployment and high illiteracy rates increases the ranks of rebel groups,
1. Condemns the attacks on President Ramos Horta and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão and wishes that the Timorese government will be able to face and to overcome these renewed threats to East Timor stability and to ensure the respect of law and order and the normal functioning of the democratic institutions, according to the Timorese Constitution;
 2. Urges the main political forces in East Timor, in power and in opposition, to engage in a cross-party and national minded lasting understanding on core issues of the functioning of the State as the armed forces, the police and the judiciary system;
 3. Calls on the Timorese government to embark on a comprehensive reform of its inefficient and politicised security sector through an inclusive, consultative process; calls on the international community to increase its support for defining a clear mandate and training of the defence and police forces;
 4. Calls on the European Union and international community and in particular neighbouring and ASEAN countries to maintain and step up their support to consolidate democracy and

a democratic culture in East Timor, focusing on a multi-party culture and institution-building – namely the parliament, the government, the judiciary, security, defence and law enforcement forces – and to assist in the urgent extension of media coverage to the whole country, as well as in strengthening the education and health networks;

5. Calls on the continuing support by the international community to alleviate poverty in East Timor and to provide assistance to rebuild the physical and administrative structures necessary for its economic development;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the state authorities of East Timor, the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Secretary-General and the parliaments of the Member States.