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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 Roberto Musacchio

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the situation in CHAD

European Parliament resolution on the situation in CHAD

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 115 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. having regard to the inviolability of the sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and independence of the Republic of Chad,
 - B. whereas on 2 February 2008 several columns of armed rebels, 2000 in number, some from outside the country, attacked the Republic of Chad with the stated aim of overthrowing the government of Mr Idriss Deby,
 - C. whereas that attempted coup claimed many innocent lives (several hundred dead, especially among the civilian population) and brought about a worrying humanitarian situation, forcing some 15 000 Chadians to flee to Cameroon over the N'Gueli bridge on the Logone river,
 - D. whereas the situation created in Chad has also made the situation in Darfur worse, since there are already more than 240 000 Sudanese refugees in Chad in 12 camps,
 - E. whereas the rebels continue to occupy part of the Chadian territory, in particular at Mongo, in the Guéra region, and at Am Timan, in the south and in the three-borders region,
 - F. whereas the solution to the crisis requires addressing its root causes in an all inclusive political reconciliation process, backed by the population, in order to achieve peace, security and development,
1. Urges all forces involved in the conflict to observe human rights and humanitarian law, to halt all attacks on refugees, displaced persons and civilians in the areas concerned and to allow humanitarian agencies to aid the suffering civilian population; assures the Chadian people of its solidarity;
 2. Calls for human rights violations, crimes against humanity, sexual violence against women and children and forced recruitment of men and children in camps for refugees and displaced persons to be identified, reported, prosecuted and punished in accordance with international provisions on human rights;
 3. Calls on the Government of Chad, the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) to guarantee safety in camps for refugees and displaced persons, for humanitarian personnel, for NGOs and for the civilian population on Chadian territory;
 4. Stresses its deep concern over the implications of the current crises in Chad for regional stability;

5. Calls on the Chadian Government to clarify the situation of unarmed opposition leaders still being detained, to deal with their cases in accordance with the principles underpinning the rule of law, and to cease any arbitrary arrest;
6. Expresses in particular its grave concern at the situation of Mahamat Saleh, spokesperson of the opposition coalition, from whom there has been no news since his arrest on 3 February 2008 and holds the Chadian authorities directly responsible for his physical integrity;
7. Supports the lifting of the state of emergency without delay;
8. Calls on the participating parties, and in particular the government, to honour their commitments to lay the foundations for free and fair elections, scheduled for 2009;
9. Encourages Chad's authorities and political players to renew and continue their efforts for a national dialogue, with due regard for the constitutional framework;
10. Underlines that the EU Member States and the UN have a 'responsibility to protect' refugees and internally displaced persons in this region and calls on the European Union, the ACP Group of States, the United Nations, the African Union and other international humanitarian organisations to do their utmost to provide effective aid for suffering refugees, displaced persons and civilian populations;
11. Calls on the African Union to facilitate an all inclusive dialogue aiming at a global peace process and the preparation of democratic elections;
12. Calls on all NGOs and humanitarian associations to abide strictly by the relevant national legislation in force, as well as the international instruments for the protection of children;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Government of Chad, the UN Secretary-General and the Commission of the African Union.