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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 Ryszard Czarnecki, Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka, Adam Bielan, Ewa Tomaszewska

on behalf of the UEN Group

on Zimbabwe

European Parliament resolution on Zimbabwe

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions of 16 December 2004, 7 July 2005 and 7 September 2006, 26 April 2007 on Zimbabwe,
 - having regard to the Extraordinary Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of 12 April 2008, held in Lusaka, Zambia to discuss the current situation in Zimbabwe,
 - having regard to Council Conclusions on Zimbabwe of 10 March 2008,
 - having regard to Council Common Position 2008/135/CFSP of 18 February 2008 renewing restrictive measures against Zimbabwe until 20 February 2009,
 - having regard to the International Crisis Group's report of 20 March 2008 entitled: 'Zimbabwe: Prospects from a flawed elections',
 - having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 236/2007 of 2 March 2007 extending the list of those persons in Zimbabwe targeted by the restrictive measures,
 - having regard to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Bureau's Declaration of 21 March 2007 on the ill-treatment of the Zimbabwean opposition MP Nelson Chamisa,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Zimbabwe has marked this month its 28th anniversary of independence amid an economic meltdown and escalating political tensions but the Zimbabwean people have yet to gain their freedom,
- B. whereas the results of the presidential election have not yet been made known by the Zimbabwean Electoral Commission (ZEC) more than 3 weeks after the country went to the polls,
- C. whereas at least two opposition activists were killed and the toll of Zimbabwe opposition supporters injured in post-election violence rose to more than 200, with many suffering serious fractures and cuts,
- D. whereas the Zimbabwean civil society groups and South African election observers concluded that already the pre-poll process were flawed due to intimidation and violence against opposition candidates and supporters by alleged militants of the ruling ZANU-PF party, a lack of transparency in postal balloting, and the proposed counting of presidential ballots at a national command centre in Harare,

- E. whereas Zimbabwe has barred western observers from monitoring March elections and has not invited any observers from the European Union or the United States while inviting 47 observer teams, including observers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union, China, Russia, and Iran,
 - F. whereas the political and economic crises in Zimbabwe are still worsening at an alarming rate and the situation has become even more critical after the post-election deadlock which can provoke further violence,
 - G. whereas the South African President Thabo Mbeki, has been appointed on behalf of SADC as a mediator between the Zimbabwe government and the opposition in order to help resolve the impasse threatening the democratic process in the country,
 - H. whereas the repressive governance of President Mugabe, the policies and corruption are responsible for the years of political and economic deadlock and for humanitarian decline,
 - I. whereas 80% of the population is living below the poverty line, the country has an unemployment rate of 80% in the formal sector and the few Zimbabweans who are in employment do not earn enough to meet even their basic needs, suffering from massive de-skilling, corruption, prohibitive school fees and the collapse of the health system and vital services,
 - J. whereas life expectancy in Zimbabwe is now among the lowest in the world at 37 for men and 34 for women, 20% of adults are HIV-positive, with over 3 200 people a week dying from the disease, creating the world's highest orphan rate,
 - K. whereas the European Union maintains the restrictive measures against Zimbabwe and suspends its support under the European development fund, given that the essential provisions of the ACP-EU partnership agreement continue to be violated,
 - L. whereas the development of Africa is a priority for the Western democracies, aid alone can achieve little and African governments are expected to commit to democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights,
 - M. whereas the African Union (AU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and in particular South Africa all have vital roles to play in resolving the crisis,
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- 1. Calls on Zimbabwe for the expeditious and transparent release of the overdue results of its March 29 presidential elections and on all parties to accept those results;
 - 2. Deeply concerned by the reports of violent retribution, threats, beatings, abductions, burning of homes and even murder being carried out in rural communities, which confirm growing evidence that rural communities are being punished for their support to opposition candidates;

3. Deplores the fact that, despite the condition of the country, regional and international criticism and a 28-year rule, Mr Mugabe was again endorsed as Zanu-PF's candidate for President by its central committee;
4. Calls again on Robert Mugabe to abide by his own promise to stand down, sooner rather than later, which would be the largest single step possible towards reviving Zimbabwean society, politics and the economy;
5. Strongly condemns the Mugabe dictatorship for its relentless oppression of the Zimbabwean people, opposition parties and civil society groups and its destruction of the Zimbabwean economy, which has deepened the misery of millions of Zimbabweans;
6. Concerned by the President Mbeki's "quiet diplomacy" strategy and his "no crisis" declaration biased in favour of President Robert Mugabe;
7. Notes that that South African President Thabo Mbeki has been set to facilitate and promote political dialogue inside Zimbabwe between ZANU-PF and the opposition MDC, with a view to create a climate to hold the recent elections, which were hailed as peaceful, and whose outcomes would not be contested;
8. Calls on Zimbabwe authorities to respect international norms and standards including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) principles and guidelines concerning elections, of which Zimbabwe is a signatory;
9. Remains concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian, political and economic situation in Zimbabwe and conditions on the ground, which may endanger the regional peace, stability and credibility of the democratic process in Africa;
10. Urges the regional leaders and organisations to use any opportunity provided to carry on the dialogue with the Government of Zimbabwe to improve relations between the Zanu-PF's and the opposition MDC;
11. Condemns all the continuing violations of the rights to shelter, food, freedom of movement and residence, freedom of assembly and the protection of the law; condemns the assaults on the media, the political opposition, civil society activists, and human rights defenders;
12. Condemns all forms of violence and repression by President Mugabe's party and calls on the European Union Council, the Commission and other international, regional and national concerned parties to find a solution to the current situation in Zimbabwe to turn it to a democracy;
13. Urges that the EU food aid programme implemented by non-governmental organisations should begin now, in view of the present famine conditions in Zimbabwe;
14. Insists that the Commission immediately supplies urgent assistance of the most vital food, medical and fuel provisions to Zimbabwe and not only in the post-Mugabe era;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the

governments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of Zimbabwe, the Government and Parliament of South Africa, the Secretary-General of the Southern African Development Community, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Chairmen of the Commission and Executive Council of the African Union, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, the Secretary General of the United Nations and the governments of the G8 countries.