

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Session document*

17.6.2008

B6-0331/2008

## 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 Pasqualina Napoletano, Hannes Swoboda, Paulo Casaca

on behalf of the PSE Group

on executions of juvenile offenders in Iran </Titre>

**European Parliament resolution on executions of juvenile offenders in Iran </Titre>**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran, notably those concerning human rights and in particular the resolutions adopted on 25 October 2007, on 31 January 2008 and 24 April 2008,
  - having regard to the Council Declaration of 25 February 2008 on the legislative proposal on criminal law in Iran,
  - having regard to the EU Presidency statement on 4 and 10 June 2008 on the imminent execution of juvenile offenders in Iran,
  - having regard to UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions and in particular to UNGA resolution 62/168 on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted on 18 December 2007,
  - having regard to UN General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the death penalty adopted on 18 December 2007,
  - having regard to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to all of which Iran is a party,
  - having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the general human rights situation in Iran has continued to deteriorate since 2005; whereas executions alone almost doubled in 2007, making Iran the country with the highest per capita number of executions after Saudi Arabia,
- B. whereas Iran and a few other countries (such as Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, and Pakistan) still execute children and carry out executions for crimes committed by people below the age of 18 and whereas Iran has accounted for more than two-thirds of such executions in the past three years,
- C. whereas on 10 June 2008 the Iranian authorities hanged Mohammad Hassanzadeh, a youth sentenced to death when he was only 15 years old and who was under the age of 18 when he was sent to the gallows in Sanandaj,

- D. whereas since 1990 Iran has executed at least 30 juvenile offenders and whereas international human rights organizations have compiled a list of at least 85 individuals on death row in Iran for crimes committed under the age of 18,
- E. whereas Iran is a party to both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child – treaties which place a legal obligation on States parties not to impose the death penalty for those under the age of 18 years at the time of the commission of the crimes,
1. Reiterates its opposition to the death penalty in general; strongly condemns the imposition of the death penalty on minors and their execution in Iran and around the world;
  2. Is appalled that Iran continues to have the highest number of executions of child offenders in the world and that the moratorium on stoning is still not fully implemented; calls on Iran to end, once and for all, juvenile executions including those of at least 85 other juvenile offenders on death row;
  3. Urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to fully comply with international law, taking into consideration alternative sentences for juvenile offenders and respect for international norms and standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty;
  4. Reiterates that juvenile death sentences are in direct contravention of the Islamic Republic of Iran's international obligations and commitments to which the Islamic Republic of Iran has freely entered, specifically as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both clearly prohibiting the execution of minors or people who have been convicted of crimes committed when they were minors;
  5. Calls on the members of the newly elected Majlis (Parliament) speedily to pass the pending reform of the Iranian penal code with the aim, notably, of abolishing stoning and executions of child offenders to bring Iranian legislation into line with international human rights obligations;
  6. Calls on the Iranian authorities and the new parliamentarians to ensure that Iran joins the global trend away from the use of the death penalty, powerfully expressed in the UN General Assembly's resolution calling for a worldwide moratorium on executions on 18 December 2007,
  7. Calls upon the Council and the Commission to closely monitor developments in Iran and also to raise concrete cases of human rights abuses as the basic condition for progress in EU-Iran economic and trade relations;
  8. Calls on the Presidency of the Council and the Member States' diplomatic representatives in Iran urgently to undertake concerted action with regard to the abovementioned concerns;
  9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the member states, the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Head of the State Supreme Court of Iran and the Government and Parliament of

the Islamic Republic of Iran.