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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 Luisa Morgantini

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the case of Mrs Roxana Saberi in Iran

European Parliament resolution on the case of Mrs Roxana Saberi in Iran

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran;
- having regard the European Union is deeply concerned about the sentence pronounced by the Iranian Revolutionary Court on 18 April 2009 against Miss Roxana Saberi for alleged espionage;
- having regards to the statements issued by the Council Presidency on 20 April 2009 on the threats against Roxana Saberi
- having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Roxana Saberi, Iranian-American freelance journalist based in Iran, was sentenced on 18 April 2009 to eight years in prison after she was convicted in a closed-door trial for alleged spying;

B. whereas Saberi had been held in prison for more than two months and the charges against her were changed twice before her trial finally began on 20 April

C. whereas Saberi has herself been on hunger strike since 21 April and, according to her father, Reza Saberi, who visited her in Tehran's Evin prison on 27 April, she is determined and ready to go all the way

D. whereas the European Union considers that the judicial process with Miss Saberi did not meet the standards of a fair and transparent trial,;

1. Strongly condemns the unfounded sentence delivered to Roxana Saberi; asks for the immediate and unconditional release of Mrs Saberi;
2. Urges the Iranian government to rescind all charges against her;
3. Calls on the EU Council and Members States' diplomatic representatives in Iran to urgently undertake actions with regard to her case;
4. Calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with all international human rights instruments ratified by Iran, especially with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Universal Declaration of Human Rights which both guarantee the right to fair trial;
5. Reiterates its concern regarding the persecution and imprisonment of citizens in Iran who engage in the defence of human rights and who campaign against the death penalty, which frequently results in their being charged with so-called activities against national security;

calls also on Iran to end the harassment, intimidation and persecution of political opponents and human rights defenders, by inter alia releasing persons imprisoned arbitrarily or on the basis of their political views, and to end impunity for human rights violations;

6. Urges the Council and Commission to continue their examination of the human rights situation in Iran and to submit to Parliament a comprehensive report on the matter;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UN Human Rights Council, the Head of the Judiciary of Iran, the Government and Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran.