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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 Pasqualina Naipoletano

on behalf of the PSE Group

on Iran: the case of Roxana Saberi

European Parliament resolution on Iran: the case of Roxana Saberi

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran, notably those concerning human rights,
- having regard to the EU Presidency Statement of 10 April 2009 on developments in the case of Roxana Saberi and the Declaration of 20 April 2009 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning the sentencing of Miss Roxana Saberi,
- having regard to the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and, in particular, resolution 63/191 of 18 December 2008 on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which have been ratified by Iran,
- 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 in all areas and aspects,
 - B. Whereas Ms Saberi, an American journalist with dual Iranian-American citizenship, was arrested in late January for purchasing wine and, after having been held for a good month without charges, convicted of espionage less than two weeks after being charged,
 - C. Whereas Ms Saberi was sentenced to eight years in prison after a one-day, closed-door trial and the evidence against her has never been made public,
 - D. Whereas Ms Saberi is now on hunger strike and has pledged to stay on hunger strike until she is released,
- 1. Condemns the sentence pronounced by the Iranian Revolutionary Court on 18 April 2009 against Miss Roxana Saberi, accused by Iran of spying for the US;
 - 2. Considers that the judicial process concerning Miss Saberi did not meet the standards of a fair and transparent trial and urges the Iranian authorities to release Ms. Saberi from imprisonment immediately;
 - 3. Calls on Iranian officials to make all evidence against Ms. Saberi public, to investigate and review this case in accordance with the orders of the Iranian Judiciary, Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, and to ensure that Ms. Saberi has access to a full defence to appeal these charges against her;

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. 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;
6. 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.