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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 122 of the Rules of Procedure

on the case of the captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit

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on behalf of the S&D Group

European Parliament resolution on the case of the captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions,
- having regard to the Geneva Conventions,
- having regard to Rule 122(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas, following the explosion of an artillery shell that killed seven Palestinians on a beach near Gaza City, the firing of rockets into Southern Israel, and air strikes into the Gaza Strip, Israeli corporal Gilad Shalit was abducted by a joint force of Palestinian militants on 25 June 2006, while two Israeli soldiers and two Palestinian militants were killed during this raid,

B. whereas Gilad Shalit is still being kept in the Gaza Strip; whereas Hamas assumes responsibility for his ongoing detention; whereas Hamas has refused the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organisations to visit him but has declared that he is being held in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention,

C. whereas Gilad Shalit has both French and Israeli citizenships,

D. whereas more than 8.000 Palestinian prisoners, including women and children, are held in Israeli prisons and detention centres,

E. whereas 23 democratically elected Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council are still imprisoned by Israel,

F. whereas Germany and other EU Member States continue to make considerable efforts aimed at achieving an agreement over the release of Gilad Shalit,

G. whereas international humanitarian law and international human rights law must be respected by all parties and under any circumstances in the conflict,

H. whereas trust-building between Israelis and Palestinians is an essential part of a peace process leading to two states living side by side in peace and security,

1. Reiterates its call for the immediate release of Gilad Shalit;

2. Calls upon Hamas to guarantee that the detention conditions of Gilad Shalit are in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention; deplores the continued refusal of providing detailed information about his wellbeing to his family as well as to the French and Israeli authorities;

3. Reiterates its call for a substantial release of Palestinian prisoners, which may also be a contributing factor to the release of Gilad Shalit; calls upon Israel to lift restrictions on family visits and to guarantee that detention conditions of all Palestinian prisoners are in accordance with international conventions, including the Geneva Conventions;
4. Reiterates its call for the release of the 23 democratically elected Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council detained by Israel;
5. Urges the European Union and its Member States to continue their efforts aimed at achieving the release of Gilad Shalit as well as a substantial release of Palestinian prisoners with special regard to children, women and political prisoners, including Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Israeli government and parliament, the President of the Palestinian Authority, and the Palestinian Legislative Council.