



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Plenary sitting*

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13.9.2011

B7-0507/2011

## 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 Eritrea: case of Dawit Isaak

**Charles Tannock, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Valdemar Tomaševski,  
Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Michał Tomasz Kamiński, Ryszard Czarnecki,  
Geoffrey Van Orden, Adam Bielan**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on Eritrea: case of Dawit Isaak**

*The European Parliament,*

- Having regard to its resolution of 15 January 2009 on the situation in the Horn of Africa,
  - Having regard to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, to which Eritrea is a party, in particular articles 6, 7, 9 and 18 thereof;
  - Having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Eritrea is a party, in particular articles 7, 9, 10, 14 and 19 thereof;
  - Having regard to the Constitution of Eritrea, in particular article 17 thereof;
  - Having regard to Rule 122(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
    - A. Whereas Dawit Isaak, a journalist, born in Eritrea, but with both Swedish and Eritrean nationality, was arrested in Eritrea on 23 September 2001;
    - B. Whereas Mr. Isaak has been held incommunicado and in all probability under inhumane circumstances almost permanently ever since;
    - C. Whereas the President of Eritrea Issayas Afwerki declared in an interview broadcast on 26 May 2009 that his administration had no plans to release Mr. Isaak, nor to conduct a trial in which the journalist would be formally charged;
1. Condemns the incommunicado custody of Mr. Dawit Isaak, who holds a Swedish passport;
  2. Demands that a fair trial, as prescribed by article 17 of the Eritrean Constitution, be organized in which Mr. Isaak shall be presented before an independent court of law;
  3. Demands fair trials to be organized for all other political prisoners, including journalists, currently held, often under appalling conditions and incommunicado, in Eritrea;
  4. Demands that Eritrea grants its citizens all rights prescribed and guaranteed by national and international law, such as freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, freedom of assembly and freedom of religion;
  5. Demands that all prisoners detained solely for their political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs be released immediately and unconditionally;

6. Requests the High Representative for Foreign Affairs to actively pursue the organization of fair trials, and far-reaching political and judicial reforms, in Eritrea, and for the EEAS and the Commission to stop giving development aid other than humanitarian aid to Eritrea until these conditions are met;
7. Calls, furthermore, on the EU Member States and other contracting parties to suspend Eritrea from the Cotonou Agreement, based on the provisions in article 96 of the Agreement, as a consequence of flagrant human rights violations and the unwillingness of the Eritrean authorities to remedy this situation, until such time as serious improvements in the human rights situation and political and judicial reforms have been made;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the Government and Parliament of Eritrea.