



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Plenary sitting

25.11.2014

B8-0308/2014

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure

on Iraq: kidnapping and mistreatment of women
(2014/2971(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

B8-0308/2014

**European Parliament resolution on Iraq: kidnapping and mistreatment of women
(2014/2971(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iraq,
- having regard to the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on the ISIL/Da'esh crisis in Syria and Iraq of 20 October 2014,
- having regard to the Resolution of the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Iraq in the light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups of 1 September 2014,
- having regard to Rule 135(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the armed group, the self-proclaimed “Islamic State” (IS) has made calculated use of public brutality and indoctrination to ensure the submission of communities under its control; whereas in IS controlled areas, civilians have experienced a relentless assault on their basic freedoms;

B. whereas there are serious concerns for the protection and welfare of members of vulnerable groups, in particular those displaced or living in areas under IS control or areas affected by violence; whereas of main concern are women, female-headed households, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, and members of diverse ethnic, cultural or religious groups;

C. whereas women and girls have suffered extremely grievous violations of their rights by IS; whereas many women and girls who have escaped captivity report physical and sexual assault, sexual slavery, trafficking and forced marriage; whereas women and girls are literally sold in open markets; whereas women and girls are brought with price tags for the buyers to choose and negotiate the sale;

D. whereas during its early August 2014 attack on Sinjar in northern Iraq, IS abducted hundreds of Yazidi women and girls; whereas IS has stated that Yazidi women could be enslaved unlike female apostates who the majority of the fuqahā’ (experts in Islamic Law) say cannot be enslaved and can only be given an ultimatum to repent or face the sword; whereas after capture, the Yazidi women and children were then divided according to the Sharī’ah amongst the fighters of the IS who participated in the Sinjar operations; whereas IS is imposing its ideology on captured Yazidi children;

E. whereas women have not been spared from IS self-appointed courts; whereas on 5 September, IS executed three Sunni women in Mosul; whereas according to some reports,

they were executed after IS's self-appointed courts sentenced them to death, allegedly for refusing to treat IS fighters; whereas on 9 September, two women were executed by IS by being shot in the back of the head;

F. whereas the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is deeply concerned about the ability of the international community to meet urgent winter needs in Iraq, in particular for the recently displaced;

G. whereas Iraq's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity are essential for stability and economic development in the country and the region;

1. Is deeply concerned by the increasing and dramatic human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in Iraq resulting from the terrorist acts committed by IS and associated armed groups against the Iraqi people;

2. Strongly condemns the systematic violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law resulting from the terrorist acts committed by IS and associated armed groups in several provinces of Iraq, which may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity; strongly condemns in particular all violence against women and children, and members of ethnic and religious minorities; calls for the release of women and girls captured by IS;

3. Calls on the Iraqi authorities and the international community to ensure that the perpetrators of abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law are held accountable;

4. Urges all parties to comply with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law, to protect civilians, in particular women and children, to respect their human rights and to meet their basic needs, which requires providing safe access for humanitarian and medical services to all affected populations;

5. Welcomes the efforts of the United States and of all the other contributing states to support the Iraqi national and local authorities in their fight against IS, to stop the advance of IS and to facilitate access for humanitarian support; supports the global coalition against IS and its effort to combat IS militarily; urges the international community to support the needed lifesaving assistance for people in Iraq over the winter, including the Yazidi families who are still on Mount Sinjar defending their temples from being destroyed by IS;

6. Reiterates its call on the Commission, the European External Action Service and the Member States to take specific actions to address the situation of women in Iraq and guarantee their freedom and respect for their most fundamental rights, and to adopt measures to prevent exploitation of, and abuse and violence against, women and children, in particular the early marriage of girls; is particularly concerned at the increase in all forms of violence against Yazidi women, who are imprisoned, raped, sexually abused and sold by the members of IS; stresses that humanitarian agencies should give priority to and expand the provision of specialised medical services and psychosocial support to women and girls, in particular victims of sexual violence;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission/ High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Government and Council of Representatives of Iraq, the Regional Government of Kurdistan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Human Rights Council.