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Plenary sitting

27.4.2015

B8-0400/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on recent atrocities in Northern Nigeria
(2015/2520(RSP))

Javier Nart, Petras Auštrevičius, Dita Charanzová, Gérard Deprez, Filiz Hyusmenova, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Marielle de Sarnez, José Inácio Faria, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Antanas Guoga, Ivan Jakovčić, Petr Ježek, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Fernando Maura Barandiarán, Louis Michel, Urmas Paet, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Jozo Radoš, Robert Rochefort, Marietje Schaake, Pavel Telička, Yana Toom, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Frédérique Ries, Ivo Vajgl, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Hilde Vautmans
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on recent atrocities in Northern Nigeria
(2015/2520(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Nigeria and in particular to the last debate in plenary session on Wednesday, 14 January 2015,
- having regard to the preliminary conclusions of the EU and EP Election Observation Missions,
- having regard to the statements by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, of 8 and 14 January, 31 March, and 14 and 15 April 2015,
- having regard to the conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council of 19 January 2015 on terrorism, and to the Council Conclusions of 9 February 2015,
- having regard to the joint statement issued on 27 November 2014 at the 5th EU-Nigeria dialogue in Abuja, which condemned the atrocities of Boko Haram,
- having regard to the regional conference on security in Niamey on 20 January 2015,
- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement of 2000 and the amendments of 2005 and 2010 (the latter having been ratified by Nigeria on 27 September 2010) and, in particular, to Articles 9 and 13 on human rights and fundamental freedoms and non-discrimination based on religion,
- having regard to the statements made by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the continuing violence and deteriorating security in north-eastern Nigeria,
- having regard to the statements made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the possibility that members of Boko Haram could be accused of war crimes,
- having regard to the UN Declaration of 1981 on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,
- having regard to the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of terrorism, ratified by Nigeria on 16 May 2003, and the Additional Protocol, ratified by Nigeria on 22 December 2008,
- having regard to the condemnation of Boko Haram activities by the African Union, particularly in its press statement 12 January 2015,
- having regard to the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria adopted on 29 May 1999, and in particular to the provisions of Chapter IV relating to the protection of fundamental rights, including the right to life, the right to a fair trial, the right to the

dignity of the human person and the protection of freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom of thought, freedom of conscience and freedom of religion,

- having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights of 1981, ratified by Nigeria on 22 June 1983,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), ratified by Nigeria on 29 October 1993,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the scale of violence and cruelty increased during January and February 2015; whereas the attacks have increased and are perpetrated over large areas, as well as in neighbouring countries, including Cameroon; whereas the population is suffering enormously, with women and children among others being taken as hostages or kidnapped; whereas the 200 schoolgirls abducted on the night of 14-15 April 2014, in the town of Chibok, are still missing; and whereas men and elderly people are tortured and killed;
- B. whereas the attack by Boko Haram between 3 and 8 January 2015 targeted Baga, the seat of the regional armed force (Multinational Joint Task Force – MNJTF), and sixteen surrounding towns and villages, destroying the base and the local houses, and killing thousands of people; whereas violent massacres are still going on;
- C. whereas children of about 10 years of age were used to detonate bombs in marketplaces, killing dozens of people and wounding a number of others;
- D. whereas education is vital for the fight against violence and fundamentalism;
- E. whereas the Chadian army is the main force fighting against Boko Haram, whose full involvement against the Boko Haram terrorists in Gamboru Ngala, Malam Fatori, and Kangalam in Nigeria is acknowledged; recognises the great price paid by this army in the war against terrorism; expresses its full solidarity with the wounded and the families of the dead;
- F. whereas there was lack of specific action on the part of the previous authorities in Nigeria in taking greater responsibility for dealing with the problems affecting their own country, and in applying ethical values in concrete measures to deal with terrorism, corruption, poverty and inequality;
- G. whereas on 31 March 2015 the presidential candidate of the opposition All Progressive Congress (APC), General Muhammadu Buhari, was declared the winner of the elections and stated his will to develop the country, reform the army and fight actively against Boko Haram, and the incumbent President peacefully accepted defeat;
- H. whereas those elections show that the people of Nigeria are fully committed to democracy;

- I. whereas the African Union Summit, and specifically its Peace and Safety Council, decided on the creation of a multinational inter-African force of 7 500 men to combat the Nigerian Islamic sect; whereas the African Union decided to seize the UN Security Council to mobilise the international community against Boko Haram;
1. Condemns vigorously the massacres and atrocities committed by Boko Haram in the north-east of Nigeria, which constitute serious war crimes and crimes against humanity and are still going on;
2. Strongly condemns the use of women and children to carry out suicide attacks;
3. Strongly condemns the attacks on schools and universities by Boko Haram, and calls on the Nigerian authorities to reinforce the security of these institutions and promote access to education for all children in the country;
4. Expresses its full solidarity with the survivors of Boko Haram barbarism and conveys its condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones after the mad terrorist attacks by Boko Haram;
5. Urges the international community to continue fighting for the ‘Bring Back Our Girls’ campaign; calls on the newly elected President to do everything in his power to find all abducted people;
6. Calls for EU solidarity in welcoming wounded soldiers who fought against Boko Haram to be treated in EU hospitals;
7. Congratulates the new President Muhammadu Buhari on his victory in the democratic elections; urges the newly elected President to implement his campaign programme and to put all resources into putting an end to the violence of Boko Haram, re-establishing stability and security across the whole country and addressing the root causes of this terrorism;
8. Calls on the Nigerian authorities to take firmer action in fighting internal corruption and inefficiencies inside the army, which have led to the army being incapable of dealing with the scourge of Boko Haram in the north of the country;
9. Calls on the Nigerian authorities to adopt measures to starve Boko Haram of their sources of illegal income through cooperation with neighbouring countries, in particular with regard to smuggling and trafficking;
10. Calls for the creation of a roadmap on the social and economic development of the region under terrorist attacks to address the issues of poverty and inequality;
11. Acknowledges that without a coalition and the collaboration of armed forces from the countries of the region (Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon) it would not be possible to give an effective response to the challenge of the terrorist group Boko Haram;
12. Calls on the Nigerian authorities to welcome and cooperate with the European Union or an international force in addressing the Boko Haram threat;

13. Welcomes the determination expressed at the Niamey Regional Summit on 20 and 21 January 2015 by the 13 participating countries, in particular the military commitment of Chad together with Cameroon and Nigeria against the terrorist threats of Boko Haram;
14. Welcomes the initiatives of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and calls on the African Union to urgently engage in concrete action, together with all the countries involved, to coordinate the fight against terrorist groups in the Sahel region;
15. Calls on the international community to help the Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries;
16. Calls on the international community to take appropriate steps to support effective and sustainable anti-terrorist policies in Africa;
17. Urges the European Union to support the development of regional mechanisms for conflict management such as the African Standby Force (ASF);
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Federal Government of Nigeria, the institutions of the African Union and the economic Community of West African States, the United Nations Secretary-General, the United Nations General Assembly, and the Co-Chairs of the ACP-EU-African Parliament Joint Parliamentary Assembly.