



Plenary sitting

B8-0226/2017

14.3.2017

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 the Philippines, the case of senator Leila M. De Lima
(2017/2597(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the Philippines, the case of senator Leila M. De Lima
(2017/2597(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Philippines,
 - having regard to the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the EU (at the time the European Economic Community (EEC)) established on 12 May 1964 with the appointment of the Philippines Ambassador to the EEC,
 - having regard to the Philippines' status as a founding member of ASEAN following the signature of the Bangkok Declaration on 8 August 1967,
 - having regard to the Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of the Philippines, of the other part,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 1966,
 - having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Philippines and the EU have longstanding diplomatic, economic, cultural and political relations;
- B. whereas on 24 February 2017 Senator Leila M. De Lima surrendered to the police, after the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court in Metro Manila issued a warrant for her arrest following the filing of drug related charges by the Department of Justice; whereas if convicted Senator De Lima faces a sentence of up to 12 years and expulsion of the Senate;
- C. whereas Senator De Lima was the Chair of the Philippines Human Rights Commission, appointed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and was later appointed Head of the Department of Justice by President Benigno S. Aquino III;
- D. whereas on 19 September 2016 Senator De Lima was removed from her position as chairperson of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights;
- E. whereas there are serious concerns that the offences with which Senator De Lima has been charged are almost entirely fabricated; whereas the evidence that has been made public appears to be unreliable and the procedures followed in order to arrest Senator De Lima contrary to the applicable law in various respects;
- F. whereas on 8 March 2017 the House of Representatives passed House Bill 4727 or the proposed "Death Penalty Law," which seeks to reinstate the punishment of death for drug-

related heinous crimes;

1. Calls for all charges against Senator De Lima to be dropped immediately; calls on the Government of the Philippines to immediately release Senator De Lima and stop any further acts of harassment against her;
2. Notes with concern the statements of officials from the Philippine Government, including the Secretary of Justice, alluding to the Senator's guilt;
3. Strongly condemns drug trafficking and drug abuse in the Philippines; stresses that illegal drugs are a threat to young people in the Philippines and one of the most serious problems in society;
4. Understands that in the Philippines millions of people are negatively affected by the high level of drug addiction and its consequences; expresses its strongest concerns, however, at the extraordinarily high numbers killed during police operations and by vigilante groups in the context of an intensified anti-crime and anti-drug campaign targeting drug dealers and users; urges the Government of the Philippines to put an end to the current wave of extrajudicial executions and killings;
5. Calls on the Philippine Government to refrain from invoking the death penalty and from lowering the minimum age of criminal liability;
6. Urges the EU to use all available instruments to assist the Government of the Philippines in respecting its international human rights obligations, notably through the Framework Agreement;
7. 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 and the Government and Parliament of the Republic of the Philippines.