



Plenary sitting

B8-0109/2018

6.2.2018

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 executions in Egypt
(2018/2561(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

B8-0109/2018

**European Parliament resolution on executions in Egypt
(2018/2561(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the abolition of the death penalty, in particular that of 7 October 2010, and that of 5 October 2015,
 - having regard to European Parliament resolution of 13 December 2017 on the Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2016 and the European Union's policy on the matter,
 - having regard to the World Day and the European Day against the Death Penalty, held on 10 October each year,
 - having regard to the final declaration adopted by the 6th World Congress against the Death Penalty held in Oslo on 21-23 June 2016,
 - having regard to Protocols 6 and 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - having regard to Article 2 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 - having regard to the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 2nd Optional Protocol thereof,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Egypt,
 - having regard to the EU-Egypt Association Agreement of 2001, which entered into force in 2004, strengthened by the Action Plan of 2007; having regard to the EU-Egypt partnership priorities for 2017-2020 approved last July;
 - having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Whereas the death penalty is the ultimate inhuman and degrading punishment which violates the right to life as declared in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

- B. whereas the European Union has a strong and principled position against the death penalty, which establishes a universal moratorium with a view to a global abolition of capital punishment as one of a key objectives of the Union's human rights policy;
- C. whereas Egypt has gone through several difficult challenges since the 2011 revolution and the international community is supporting the country it to address its economic, political and security challenges;
- D. whereas the EU's level of engagement with Egypt should continue to be incentive-based, in line with the 'more for more' principle of the European Neighbourhood Policy, and should depend on progress in reform of democratic institutions, the rule of law and human rights;
- E. Whereas, the new 2017-2020 EU-Egypt partnership priorities are guided by a shared commitment to the universal values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and constitute a renewed framework for political engagement and enhanced cooperation including on security and terrorism, as well as on managing migratory flows;
- F. whereas, the Subcommittee on Political Matters, Human Rights and Democracy of the Association Agreement between Egypt and the European Union held its fifth session in Cairo on 10-11 January 2018 addressed the cooperation in the areas of human rights, democracy, the rule of law;
- G. whereas Egypt faces a genuine threat of terrorism and violent extremism and acts of terror are taking place on the Sinai peninsula almost on a daily basis;
- H. whereas on 9 April, 2017 twin suicide bombings took place at St. George's church (Tanta) and Saint Mark's Coptic orthodox cathedral killing at least 47 people; whereas on the 24 November 2017, terrorists killed 311 civilians at a North Sinai mosque during Friday prayers making it the deadliest terrorist attack in Egypt's modern history;
- I. whereas according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, on December 26, 2017 fifteen men convicted on terrorism charges were reportedly executed,

twenty people were reported to have been executed in Egypt in the first week of January 2018 and whereas media sources reported that on the 9th of January 2018 three men were executed, convicted of rape and sentenced to die by a military tribunal;

- J. whereas there are around 100 crimes in Egypt which are punishable by death penalty, whereas the majority of the death sentences have been commuted to life imprisonment;
 - K. whereas it is important that all necessary measures are taken to ensure that such trials take place under conditions which genuinely afford the full guarantees stipulated in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a State party and in cases of capital punishment, trials must meet the highest standards of fairness and due process;
1. Reiterates its condemnation of the use of the death penalty and calls for a moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards its abolition; emphasizes once again that the abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity as established in the EU's human rights policy priorities;
 2. Condemns all executions wherever they take place; calls for the immediate and definitive end of such practices, which violate international human rights standards;
 3. Calls on the Egyptian authorities to reverse the death sentences handed down; calls on the authorities to establish immediately an official moratorium on executions, as a first step towards abolition;
 4. Reminds the Egyptian Government that the long-term prosperity of Egypt and its people goes hand in hand with the protection of universal human rights and on the establishment and anchorage of democratic and transparent institutions also engaged in protecting citizens' fundamental rights;
 5. Expresses its serious concern about the mass trials by Egyptian courts and the large number of death sentences handed down by them; calls on the Egyptian judicial authorities to uphold and respect the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a party, and notably Article 14 thereof on the right to a fair and timely trial based on clear charges and ensuring the respect of the defendants' rights;

6. Underlines the importance that the EU attaches to its cooperation with Egypt as an important neighbour and partner; stresses the important role of Egypt for stability in the region; commits to its continued support to Egypt in the process of strengthening its democratic institutions, respecting and defending human rights and promoting social justice and security;
7. Strongly condemns the recent terrorist attacks on the Sinai Peninsula and all other acts of terrorism against Egypt, expresses its concerns on the constant attacks on Christian Copts being often targeted by terrorists; stresses its solidarity with the Egyptian people and underlines that the EU and the international community must stand firmly and cooperate with Egypt in its fight against terrorism;
8. 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 and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Egyptian Government, the Egyptian Parliament, the UN Secretary-General and the UN Human Rights Council.