



Plenary sitting

B8-0119/2019

12.2.2019

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 Zimbabwe
(2019/2563(RSP))

Elena Valenciano, Victor Boștinaru, Soraya Post, Aleksander Gabelic
on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on Zimbabwe
(2019/2563(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Zimbabwe;
 - having regard to Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/220 of 15 February 2016 amending Decision 2011/101/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Zimbabwe;
 - having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of June 1981, which Zimbabwe has ratified;
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 1948;
 - having regard to The United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials which provide that all security forces shall as far as possible use nonviolent means before resorting to force;
 - having regard to the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to the Republic of Zimbabwe Final Report of the 30 July 2018;
 - having regard to the Statement by the Spokesperson of the HR/VP on the situation in Zimbabwe;
 - having regard to the Constitution of Zimbabwe;
 - having regard to the Cotonou Agreement;
 - having regard to Rules 135(5) of its Rules of Procedure.
- A. Whereas on 12 January 2018 President Emmerson Mnangagwa announced fuel price increase of 150% to take effect the following day;
- B. Whereas in response to the announcement and after years of economic mismanagement and corruption under the autocratic rule under Robert Mugabe, Zimbabweans are justifiably concerned about the effects that the fuel increases will have on their daily lives, including food and healthcare, leading the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions to call for a three-day national strike to protest;
- C. Whereas following the national protests , incidents of rioting and looting were reported which were met with a disproportionate crackdown with reports of security forces arbitrarily assaulting citizens to instil fear and clampdown on dissent; Whereas 12 people were shot dead, hundreds injured and more than 1,500 detained in the and the subsequent crackdown since the beginning of January;

- D. Whereas evidence shows the army has been largely responsible for the acts of murder, rape and armed robbery; Whereas hundreds of activists and opposition officials remain in hiding;
- E. Whereas scores of women and girls say they have been raped by army officials with many victims refusing to seek treatment and recover at home in fear of retribution from state agents;
- F. Whereas mobile and land-line communications, as well as the internet and social media channels, were repeatedly blocked to prevent access to information and communication;
- G. Whereas at least six people have been charged with subversion and face up to 20 years imprisonment, including Secretary General of the ZCTU Japhet Moyo and President of the ZCTU Peter Mutasa as well as opposition parliamentarians and social media activists;
- H. Whereas in targeting Trade Union members in particular with violence and oppression, the government has not only breached article 59 of its Constitution but also the provisions of ILO Convention No 87 on Freedom of Association that it is bound by;
- I. Whereas Zimbabwe is a signatory to the Cotonou Agreement, Article 96 of which stipulates that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is an essential element of ACP-EU cooperation;
- J. Whereas the EU and the Government of Zimbabwe signed a EUR 234 million National Indicative Programme (2014-2020) in February 2015 under the 11th European Development Fund.
1. Deplores and strongly condemns the excessive use of violence and harassment against citizens, trade union members and officials who choose to peacefully protest and make legitimate demands in the face of extortionate rises in the cost of living;
 2. Calls on the Zimbabwean authorities to release all political prisoners immediately and unconditionally;
 3. Underlines that Zimbabwean authorities must ensure that the security forces exercise restraint and respect the rights of people protesting against massive fuel price hikes and those responsible for deploying unlawful lethal force should be promptly investigated and held accountable;
 4. Calls on the Zimbabwean authorities to take into account and implement the conclusions contained in the EU EOM Final report of 30 July 2018, notably recommendations, which are meant to help pursue a number of electoral and political reforms to support Zimbabwe's democratic transition.
 5. Reminds the Government of Zimbabwe that it is obliged to ensure that citizens and workers can exercise their right to freedom of association in a climate that is free from violence, pressure or threats of any kind against their leaders and members. therefore calls on the government to halt specifically targeting leaders and members of the ZCTU; Furthermore calls on the government of Zimbabwe to withdraw all charges of subversion against the President of the ZCTU Peter Mutasa and the Secretary General Japhet Moyo.
 6. Calls on the government of Zimbabwe to engage in good faith negotiations with the ZCTU leadership to agree on a peaceful and constructive way out of the current economic crisis with full respect for human and workers' rights;

7. Demands that access to medical services should be universally provided to those in need without fear of retribution; deplors the use of rape or sexual violence by the armed forces and urgently calls on the Zimbabwean authorities to take action against military personnel accused of rape and sexual assault;
8. Condemns attempts to shutdown access to the internet, recalling that access to information is a universal right, which should be respected by Government of Zimbabwe in accordance with its constitutional and international obligations;
9. Notes that following the general election of 2018, Zimbabwean authorities chose to follow the path of reform. Recalls however that in order to deliver on this, an environment ensuring an inclusive national dialogue, through which citizens can exercise their freedoms of assembly, association and expression is necessary. Points out that Zimbabwe's efforts to promote investment and to deepen international partnerships can only be successful if these essential requirements are fulfilled;
10. Insists that the EU funding under the National Indicative Programme for Zimbabwe must remain allocated to effectively address the needs of the population and the promotion of political and economic reforms including working through trusted partners and NGOs. Calls on the Government of Zimbabwe to enhance its engagement and transparency in jointly agreed projects and programmes in order to support its reform programme;
11. Calls of the EU and its Member states to take these issues into account in the political dialogue with the Zimbabwean authorities under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement;
12. 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 governments and parliaments of the Member States, the European External Action Service, the Government and Parliament of Zimbabwe, the governments of the Southern African Development Community, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.