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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marie-Hélène Aubert, Margrete Auken, Hiltrud Breyer, Raül Romeva i Rueda,

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the implication of the UN forces in sexual abuses in Liberia and Haiti

European Parliament resolution on the implication of the UN forces in sexual abuses in Liberia and Haiti

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols of 1977, which lay down that women are protected against rape and all other forms of sexual violence,
 - having regard to the United Nations Security Council Resolution (1325) on Women, Peace and Security of 31 October 2000,
 - having regard to the UN Secretary General's Bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13),
 - having regard to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women of 20 December 1993, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, of 20 November 1999,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1265 on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, of 17 September 1999 and particularly paragraph 14 thereof, whereby UN personnel involved in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace building activities have appropriate training, particularly in human rights, including gender-related provisions,
 - having regard to the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court adopted in 1998, and particularly Articles 7 and 8 thereof, which rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy and forced sterilisation or any form of sexual violence as crimes against humanity and war crimes and equate them with a form of torture and a serious war crime, whether these acts are systematically perpetrated or not during international or internal conflicts,
 - having regard to the Council of Europe's Recommendation 5 (2002) of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the protection of women against violence, as regards violence in conflicts and post conflicts situation,
 - having regard to its resolution of 1 June 2006 on the situation of women in armed conflicts and their role in the reconstruction and democratic process in post-conflict countries¹,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas sexual abuse charges have surfaced in UN peacekeeping missions and among civilian and other humanitarian staff,

¹ P6_TA(2006)0245

- B. whereas the recent claims concerning children in Haiti and Liberia being subjected to rape and prostitution by UN peacekeepers is the latest in a sad series of similar scandals, including acts by UN personnel of paedophilia in the Democratic Republic of Congo and of human trafficking in Kosovo,
 - C. whereas in spite of the UN "zero tolerance" policy, sexual exploitation and abuses are committed by some UN troops on either peacekeeping missions or humanitarian work,
 - D. whereas rape and other forms of sexual violence have become endemic, whereas it is impossible to establish with any degree of accuracy the exact numbers of women and girls – of all ages – who have been affected by sexual violence, it has been pervasive throughout the conflict,
 - E. whereas the United Nations have investigated 319 peacekeeping personnel for sexual abuse since 2004 and disciplined 179 soldiers, civilians and police,
 - F. whereas kidnappings, extrajudicial detentions, physical assaults, death threats and threats of sexual violence were also common in Haiti,
 - G. whereas there are nearly 100,000 UN peacekeepers in the world, the vast majority of whom serve loyally and honourably, but whose contributions to peace and security are undermined by the serious sexual abuses of a small number of individual UN personnel,
1. Condemns the acts of UN peacekeepers in Haiti and Liberia who have subjected children to rape and prostitution;
 2. Condemns all acts of sexual abuse and exploitation as well as other forms of criminal acts carried out by UN personnel in violation of human rights as well as being in flagrant contradiction with, and constituting a betrayal of, the peacekeeping and humanitarian mission of the organisation itself;
 3. Asks the UN Secretary General to organise a thorough investigation of the UN peacekeepers' and humanitarian actors' role in sexual exploitation and abuse of children and vulnerable people in order to put in place an effective monitoring system and enforce a UN zero tolerance policy;
 4. Calls on those countries contributing to UN peacekeeping missions to bring to court those individuals who have committed sexual abuses;
 5. Calls on the UN to take all necessary steps to create truly effective and transparent monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
 6. Calls on the UN to allocate funds to support victims of sexual abuse of peacekeepers to empower women and girls as a way to prevent further sexual abuse;

7. Underlines the particularly heinous nature of these acts, preying on extremely vulnerable and weak local populations that should be protected, not abused, by UN personnel;
8. Welcomes the commitment of the UN Secretary-General to "zero tolerance" of sexual abuse and exploitation; welcomes also the ambition to create a binding UN treaty on the prosecution of sexual abuse committed by peacekeepers;
9. Stresses that such a treaty should also include policies preventing UN personnel charged with such abuse from being re-hired, the setting up of a fund to assist victims of abuse, as well as measures to improve training of UN personnel in the respect of human rights;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the UN Secretary-General.