



Plenary sitting

B8-0809/2016

17.6.2016

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 the massacres in eastern Congo
(2016/2770(RSP))

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on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the massacres in eastern Congo
(2016/2770(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in particular those of 17 January 2008 on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and rape as a war crime¹, 21 February 2008 on North Kivu², 23 October 2008 on clashes in the eastern border areas of the DRC³, 17 December 2009 on violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo⁴, 13 June 2012 on follow-up of the elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo⁵, 12 September 2013 on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo⁶, 9 July 2015 on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in particular the case of the two detained human rights activists Yves Makwambala and Fred Bauma⁷, 17 December 2015 on the protection of the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo⁸ and 10 March 2016 on the Democratic Republic of the Congo⁹,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance of 2007, which was signed by the DRC on 29 June 2008 but not ratified by it, and which entered into force on 15 February 2012,
 - having regard to the EU's local statement of 19 November 2015 following the launch of the national dialogue in the DRC,
 - having regard to the joint press release of 16 February 2016 by the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) on the necessity of an inclusive political dialogue in the DRC and their commitment to supporting Congolese actors in their efforts towards the consolidation of democracy in the country,
 - having regard to the report of March 2016 by the Congo Research Group, entitled 'Who are the killers of Beni?',
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas for more than twenty years the mineral-rich north-eastern region of the DRC has been torn apart by conflicts engaged by many Congolese and foreign militias (e.g. the Rwandan FDLR and the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU)), which are inflicting violence and a reign of terror on the

¹ OJ C 41E, 19.2.2009, p. 83.

² OJ C 184E, 6.8.2009, p. 106.

³ OJ C 15E, 21.1.2010, p. 86.

⁴ OJ C 286E, 22.10.2010, p. 21.

⁵ OJ C 332E, 15.11.2013, p. 63.

⁶ OJ C 93, 9.3.2016, p. 173.

⁷ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0278.

⁸ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0475.

⁹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0085.

region; whereas the major rebel movement M-23 capitulated on 7 November 2013 and its alleged founder surrendered to the International Criminal Court (ICC);

- B. whereas, after a short lull, violence resumed with a series of horrific massacres in October, November and December 2015 in the vicinity of the towns of Beni, Butembo, Miriki and Lubero, in the North Kivu Province; whereas, according to a note sent to Agenzia Fides (the Vatican news agency) by the Peace Network for Congo (a Congolese NGO), more than six hundred men, women and children have since then been killed and tens of thousands of people have fled their homes;
 - C. whereas local civil society representatives have stated that the violence is accompanied ‘by collective and suspicious movements of populations of the same ethnicity and language, of indeterminate origin, with the intention of land occupation and dismemberment of the country’ and ‘the systematic looting of assets and natural resources’;
 - D. whereas there is an obvious lack of institutions (legislative and judicial) able to operate properly in the region and to tackle the problems which have caused renewed violence since October 2014;
 - E. whereas political tensions are high in the DRC owing to the fact that President Kabila, who has been in power since 2001, is required by the constitution to step down on 20 December 2016 and has not yet declared that he will do so;
 - F. whereas if President Kabila tries to remain in power beyond the limits of his term under the constitution, violence could erupt in the DRC on a much larger scale than seen in Burundi, causing the Great Lakes region as a whole to be destabilised;
 - G. whereas on 28 November 2015 President Kabila called for an inclusive national political dialogue to prepare for the 2016 elections;
 - H. whereas on 11 May 2016 the Constitutional Court ruled that President Kabila could legally stay in office after his second term ends on 20 December 2016 if elections have not been held by then; whereas, however, the main opposition parties have rejected the Court’s ruling;
 - I. whereas by its Resolution 2277 (2016), unanimously adopted on 30 March 2016, the UN Security Council renewed MONUSCO’s mandate until 31 March 2017;
- 1. Strongly condemns the massacres and crimes against humanity which are still going on in eastern Congo; points to the urgent need to put an end to the criminal activities of all armed groups without discrimination in the country’s eastern regions;
 - 2. Insists that this situation should not prevent elections from taking place as constitutionally planned; considers that free, transparent and fair elections can contribute to ending the ongoing crisis in the DRC, enable more thorough scrutiny regarding mining deals and the misuse of mining revenues and thus improve the human rights situation in the DRC;
 - 3. Expresses its conviction that the existence of any kind of armed group is a hindrance to

peace in eastern Congo and its extreme worry about the increased recruitment into ethnically based self-defence groups noted by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for the DRC in early 2016;

4. Calls on the Government of the DRC to reconstruct and increase the authority of the State and the rule of law in the restless eastern Congo, particularly in the fields of governance and security, in order to facilitate the return of displaced people and humanitarian access; calls for quick and active resumption of collaboration between MONUSCO and the RDC armed forces (FARDC), on the basis of the military cooperation agreement signed on 28 January in Kinshasa, in order to re-establish and consolidate peace and security in both the eastern area and the country as a whole;
5. Urges the Congolese Government to thoroughly and transparently investigate and bring to justice officials alleged to be acting in complicity with the rebel and militia groups and suspected of being involved in massacres in the east and all those who have committed human right abuses, should the Human Rights Council remain seized of the situation;
6. Calls on the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court also to investigate atrocity crimes committed in North Kivu since October 2014 and prosecute those most clearly responsible, ensuring that this includes the chiefs of militias and all those responsible for massacres, sexual violence, war crimes and crimes against humanity;
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 Secretary General of the UN, the African Union, the President, Prime Minister and Parliament of the DRC, and the ACP/UE Joint Parliamentary Assembly.