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14/05/01



Strasbourg, 14 May 2001

35-373/01

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Cecilia Malmstrom and Bertel Haarder ^{ESTEVE} on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the situation in Algeria

The European Parliament,

- recalling its previous resolutions on Algeria,

- A. Whereas repressive actions of the Algerian government and military against Berber militants caused the killings of more than 80 people in the Berber region of Kabylia;
- B. Whereas students and other human rights campaigners have been marching peacefully to support recognition of their Tamazight tongue, spoken by about one third of the population, as an official language as well as other cultural rights;
- C. Whereas since independence in 1962 successive governments have stressed the Arab character of the state and showed lack of assistance and investment in Kabylia, one of the most populous and poorest regions in the country;
- D. Whereas, despite the implementation of an amnesty law and efforts made by President Bouteflika, Algeria is far from national reconciliation and still ravaged by massacres and human rights abuses;
- E. Whereas the government has planned the adoption of new measures restricting the rights of the media;
- F. Whereas Algeria and the EU are negotiating a new Euro-Mediterranean agreement;
- 1. Condemns the killing of the Berber activists and consider such a violent action by the police a serious violation of the values on which is based the Barcelona Declaration;
- 2. Welcomes the decision of President Bouteflika to set up a commission of enquiry into the causes of the violent clashes, but urges the Algerian authorities to refrain from

305.508

any oppressive act against the Berber population in Kabylia, to stop all violence and to bring to justice those responsible for killing of the civilian population;

3. Urges the Algerian authorities to adopt the necessary reforms to provide the Berber minority to fully enjoy cultural and linguistic rights;
4. Condemns the continuing violations of human rights committed both by fundamentalist groups and military units, including the high level of violence, disappearances, arbitrary arrests and torture;
5. Expresses its deep concern on the proposed law on restrictions on the freedom of press, a move which fully jeopardises the efforts to improve the individual rights;
6. Calls on the Council and the Commission to link the conclusion of the negotiation of the new EU/Algeria agreement to an effective improvement of the human rights situation and of the democratic process;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, Commission and the government of Algeria.

pp. Ms Malmström
Mr Harber

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Harber'.