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DRAFT RESOLUTION *IRAN*

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On behalf of the Green/EFA group

85-559/02

on executions and stoning in Iran

The European Parliament

- having regard to the third meeting of the Iran-EU Energy Working group on October 19-20 and the opening of an Energy Cooperation Centre in Teheran
- having regard to the meeting between the EU High Representative for CFSP Javier Solana and President Khatami
- having regard to the planned start of negotiations between the EU and Iran on a cooperation and trade agreement in Brussels on 29 October
- having regard to the inclusion of Iran after September 11 in the so-called "axis of evil" by US-President George Bush on concerns about Iran's possession of weapons of mass destruction, a position which is not shared by the European Parliament and the EU member states

A- Considering that this year has seen - according to reports of human rights organisations - an unprecedented wave of punishments, over 250 public executions with a steep rise from 139 last year and 75 in 2000, while unofficial figures possibly being much higher

Aa. whereas sentencing to death by stoning is rapidly increasing recently, with 23 such sentences reportedly having been given over the last five years of President Khatami's tenure

B. Considering its resolution of September 5, 2002, which confirmed that according to international norms on human rights, punishments such as stoning, flogging or amputation are considered as cruel, inhuman and degrading conducts;

C. Considering the last resolution presented to the General Assembly by the EU and adopted in December 2001, in which concern has been expressed "at the growing number of executions in the absence of respect for internationally recognized safeguards, and in particular deplores public and especially cruel executions, such as stoning".

D. Mindful of the report by Professor M. Copithorne, Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iran, to the United Nations General Assembly (A/56/278), on August 2001, reporting the stoning of two women and unequivocally urging "the Government to remove Article 82.b, concerning stoning, from Islamic Criminal Code and to undertake a policy of actively suppressing recourse to stoning throughout the country".

E. Considering the last report by UN Special Representative on Human Rights Situation in Iran, to the Human Rights Commission on April 2002, which emphasized that "Many of the punishments are gross violations of international human rights norms, including in particular the use of stoning" (E/CN.4/2002/42)

F. Expressing grave concern that according to state-run news papers, four women, Sima, Ferdows, Shahnaz and Ashraf have been sentenced to stoning by official courts since the beginning of 2002;

G. Expressing dismay at the stoning on 25 September 2002 of a woman, Goli Nikkhoh and a man Sayed Younes Assadi, after 15 years of imprisonment, in the city of Naghdeh, western Iran;

H. Considering that all 21 stonings carried out over the past five years under Khatami's presidency, have been approved by the Supreme Court, as the highest judicial organ in the "Islamic Republic of Iran";

I. Deeply shocked at remarks made by Zahra Shojaei, President Khatami's advisor on women's affairs, at a meeting with an EU official declaring stoning as legitimate and defensible act to "support the family";

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J. Disturbed at the increase in the number of public executions, particularly the execution of five persons, using cranes, in two parts of the capital on September 29, 2002, on the eve of the EU delegation's visit to Iran, which was approved by the head of the judiciary;

1- Strongly condemns the recent execution by stoning of a woman and a man in western Iran;

2- Calls on the Iranian government to revise the stoning sentences for four women who are waiting their executions in prison;

3- Denounces public executions in Iran and calls on the Iranian government to stop these executions and to implement the UN Special Representative's recommendation to abolish stoning and other cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments;

4- Express support for the Iranian women who are being suppressed by discriminatory laws and deeply regrets that the reform of the marital law was recently rejected by the Council of Guardians;

5- Call on the President of Iran to distance himself publically from these inhuman and cruel forms of punishment in violation of international norms of human rights;

6- Call on the Council of Ministers to submit a strong and substantive resolution on the human rights situation in Iran to the current session of the General Assembly, condemning the stoning and call for its abolishment;

7. Calls on the EU Member States to take a position in favor of re-instating the monitoring missions of the UN Special Representative on the Human Rights Situation in Iran

7. underlines the fact that a human rights clause forms an essential element of all cooperation and association agreements between the EU and third countries and insists that progress in the negotiations on a EU cooperation and trade agreement with Iran has to be evaluated in the light of compliance with this clause

7- Ask the President of the European Parliament to submit this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the UN Human Rights Commission, the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.