

01/09/03

initial

Motion for an urgency resolution

pursuant to article 50

tabled by Geoffrey Van Orden, Hanja Maij-Weggen and Bernd Posselt
on the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma

55-389/03

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Burma and, in particular, its resolutions of 11 April 2002, 13 March 2003, and 5 June 2003,

- having regard to the Council's Common Position 96/635/CFSP of 28 October 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, on Burma/Myanmar, as renewed and extended by the Council's Common Position 2003/297/CFSP of 28 April 2003 on Burma/Myanmar,

- having regard to the External Relations Council of 16 June 2003 that brought forward the implementation of the extended sanctions,

- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 552/97 of 24 March 1997 temporarily withdrawing access to generalised tariff preferences from the Union of Myanmar,

- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2000 of 22 May 2000 prohibiting the sale, supply and export to Burma/Myanmar of equipment which might be used for internal repression or terrorism, and freezing the funds of certain persons related to important governmental functions in that country,

A. whereas 30 August marked three months of detention for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other National League for Democracy (NLD) members,

B. whereas the ruling military State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has provided no acceptable explanation for the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her colleagues,

C. whereas on 29 July the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in captivity and this is believed to have been her last contact with the outside world,

D. whereas the United States Department of State reported on 31 August that it believed that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was on hunger strike in protest against her illegal detention by the SPDC,

E. whereas on 30 August the new Burmese Prime Minister, General Khin Nyunt, announced a seven-point roadmap beginning with a constitutional convention and culminating in free and fair elections,

F. whereas the proposed roadmap provides no timeframe for the convening of new elections,

G. whereas the SPDC has, to-date, failed to respect the results of the last elections held in Burma in 1990,

H. whereas in November 1995 the NLD walked out of the national constitutional convention stating that the convention's composition was undemocratic and therefore unacceptable,

I. whereas the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting of 16-17 June urged "Myanmar to resume its efforts of national reconciliation and dialogue among all parties concerned leading to a peaceful transition to democracy ... and looked forward to the early lifting of restrictions placed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD members",

J. whereas this mild rebuke to the SPDC constituted a welcome change in ASEAN states prior reluctance to exert pressure on the regime in Burma,

K. having regard to the efforts of the UN Special Envoy, Tan Razili Ismael, to facilitate a return to democracy in Burma,

1. Strongly condemns the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other detained NLD members and demands their immediate release;
2. Demands that the SPDC relinquish its grip on power and that the results of the last elections held be fully respected;
3. Demands that the proposed roadmap process be modified under international supervision to ensure that any constitutional convention is based upon democratic principles and that the results of the last elections are fully respected by that process;
4. Calls on the Council and the Commission to show their readiness, in collaboration with the UN, to help facilitate the National Reconciliation process in Burma;
5. Reaffirms its strong commitment and full support for democratic, judicial and political change in Burma;
6. Calls on the Council, in its periodic review of EU sanctions against the Burmese regime, to assess the effectiveness of those measures in bringing about change for the better in Burma and to strengthen them accordingly;
7. Calls on the Council, in the light of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's continued detention and her reported condition, to consider the immediate implementation of tough new measures against the SPDC;
8. Calls upon ASEAN states to exert greater pressure on the SPDC to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other detained NLD members immediately, and to take meaningful steps to exercise their influence over the Burmese regime to bring about change for the better in Burma;

9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the ASEAN Member States, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the UN Secretary General and the SPDC.

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