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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 Pasqualina Naipoletano, Robert Evans, Neena Gill and Emilio Menéndez del Valle,

on behalf of the PSE Group

on Sri Lanka

European Parliament resolution on Sri Lanka

The European Parliament,

- having regard to mounting violence in Sri Lanka, reaching levels unseen since the 2002 truce, constant breaches of the ceasefire agreement and human rights violations committed by both sides,
 - having regard to the appeal of 12.08.2006 by the co-Presidents (EU, USA, Japan, Norway) that both sides put an end to all breaches of the 2002 ceasefire,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Sri Lanka (18 May 2006 and 10 February 2006),
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas hundreds of troops, rebels and civilians have died in the past month and more than 200 000 people have fled their homes,
- B. whereas the UN threatened to suspend aid operations in Sri Lanka after the SLMM accused the Sri Lankan military to be behind the execution of 17 local staff of "Action Contre la Faim" on 6 August 2006,
- C. whereas both sides of the conflict appear increasingly willing to adopt provocative tactics, risking civilian casualties,
- D. whereas the Commission condemned restrictions enforced by the LTTE on access to water in the district of Trincomalee, thereby affecting thousands of civilians and farmers,
- E. whereas the LTTE has ordered that all EU monitors leave Sri Lanka before 1 September 2006 (with only Norway and Iceland remaining in the country),
- F. whereas the SLMM ruled that the LTTE breached the ceasefire in an attack on a civilian bus in June killing almost 70 people and blamed the Government for a string of similar attacks,
- G. whereas the LTTE assassinated on 12 August 2006 Mr. Loganathan, Deputy Secretary General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process,
- H. whereas a deal to share international aid in the aftermath of the Tsunami has never been implemented,
1. Strongly condemns the killing of 17 aid workers from "Action Contre la Faim" who according to a SLMM report were shot by Sri Lankan troops during fights with LTTE

rebels in Mutur, 16 of the victims being ethnic Tamils;

2. Is alarmed by the deterioration of the security situation with military clashes in the East and North; ongoing clashes over the Mavilaru waterway and the bombing in Mullaitivu district on 14 August with dozens of killed students affect the civilian population increasingly, with the risk of a civil war; appeals to both parties of the conflict to end violence and to resume peace negotiations;
3. Notes the failings of the Sri Lankan judicial system to effectively address Human Rights' violations; calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to ratify the Rome Statute and to implement all tools and international justice mechanisms available to victims of Human Rights' violations and crimes under international humanitarian law;
4. Acknowledges that the practice of forced taxation by the rebels among the Tamil diaspora constitutes a serious problem that may be tackled by proscribing the LTTE as a terrorist organisation;
5. Notes, however, with concern that the decision by the EU Council of 29 May 2005 to add the LTTE to the list of proscribed groups limited the ability of the EU to influence the behaviour of either side, both for the Commission in its role as co-chair, as for the EU Members to the SLMM who have been forced to leave the country;
6. Supports the current action plan of the UN office for humanitarian aid OCHA to the benefit of the displaced population; demands, however, that this aid be granted in addition to the post-Tsunami-aid;
7. Reiterates its condemnation of the appalling abuse of children through the recruitment of child soldiers, which is a war crime, and calls on all rebel groups and notably the LTTE to stop this practice, to release those it holds and to make a declaration of principle not to recruit any children in the future; urges the Government of Sri Lanka to put into place legal measures to prevent and criminalise the practice;
8. Endorses the approach of the All Party Representations Committee on Constitutional Reforms as a potential contribution to solving the conflict; regrets, however, that the LTTE is not a part of the ACP;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of Sri Lanka, the UN, the SLMM and the LTTE.