

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

13.2.2007

B6-0060/07

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 Adam Bielan, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, Michał Tomasz Kamiński,
Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka, Ryszard Czarnecki,

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the humanitarian situation of refugees in Iraq

European Parliament resolution on the humanitarian situation of refugees in Iraq

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- having regard to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,
- having regard to the Fundamental Charter of Human Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to its previous resolution on the situation in Iraq,
- having regard to the UNHCR January 2007 document entitled Supplementary Appeal Iraq Situation Response,
- having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Iraqi society and social life were completely dismantled by Saddam Hussein's dictatorship,

B. whereas the escalating violence and criminal activities in Iraq have caused massive internal and external displacement and the humanitarian situation of the refugees is deteriorating,

C. whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that over 40 percent of Iraqi refugees are Christians, although they represent only 4% of the country's population,

D. whereas Christians (including members of the Assyrian, Chaldean, Armenian and Catholic churches), Jews, Palestinians, other ethnic and religious minorities, women, Iraqis working for international agencies and organisations and numerous other groups in Iraq suffer persecution and discrimination and are denied their basic citizen rights, such as equal access to the labour market and social services,

E. whereas increased insecurity, acts of terrorism, kidnappings of civilians, including journalists, and grave violations of human rights have been constant over the last months a result of which thousands of Iraqis per day are fleeing from the country to find refuge in the neighbouring states,

F. whereas the UNHCR urges the international community to increase support for his activities and also for the countries that are now hosting thousands of Iraqis displaced by the violence in their homeland,

1. Is seriously concerned about the humanitarian situation of the Iraqi refugees and the insufficient international humanitarian support for Iraq and the countries where the Iraqi

refugees have found asylum;

2. Condemns all discriminatory practices and the persecution of Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq;

3.. Welcomes the UNHCR's initiative to issue a \$60-million appeal for the protection and assistance programmes for refugees and internally displaced people affected by the situation in Iraq and for non-Iraqi refugees in Iraq, welcomes the agency's efforts to increase support for the governments hosting the refugees and NGOs in the region which struggle to help the huge numbers of Iraqi refugees;

4. Notes that the problem of humanitarian aid for Iraqi refugees has been neglected by the international community and is alarmed by the scale of the civilian population's suffering, including the persecution of Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq, the daily violence and increasing mortality rate in Iraq;

5. Welcomes the fact that the US Government established the Iraq Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Task Force to address the growing problem of Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons;

6 Calls on the governments in the region and the international community to provide support and take an active part in the UNHCR's conference on the humanitarian situation of refugees in Iraq to be held in April in Geneva;

7. Urges the Iraqi Government, the local and religious authorities and the coalition Multi-National Forces in Iraq to increase their efforts to ensure the security of all the refugees and IDPs in Iraq;

8. Stresses the need for closer cooperation between the UNHCR and other international organisations and the Muslim world in improving security in Iraq and the well-being of the Iraqi people;

9. Calls on the other countries in the region and on the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to find a solution to the urgent problem of Palestinian refugees trapped at the border between Iraq, Syria and Jordan, or living in camps just inside the border;

10. Calls on the international community to consider and take a more positive position on the issue of resettling the most vulnerable Iraqis to third countries;

11. Instructs the President to forward this resolution to the Council Commission, UN Secretary General, UNHCR, Iraqi government, Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the governments of Syria and Jordan.