

65- 301/99

Draft

Motion for a resolution

Tabled by Mr. Johan Van Hecke, KHANBAI, MC CARTIN, GROSSE TETE

On behalf of the EPP Group

On the situation in Burundi / Great Lakes

The European Parliament

Having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Burundi,

Whereas

- A. A civil war has been raging in Burundi since 1993, in which more than 200.000 people have been killed and over 800.000 people displaced, the majority of them facing famine and diseases ;
- B. The war entered a new stage in May 1999 as the different militia groups intensified their military activities in several parts of the country as well as the capital Bujumbura, to which the army responded with clearing operations and further regroupement of people in so-called protected camps in a controversial attempt to separate the civilian population from the rebels ;
- C. Humanitarian workers are no longer safe from attacks, as illustrated by the killing of the Unicef-representative and the chief logistics of World Food Programme during a humanitarian mission on October 12 ;
- D. The war in Burundi is increasingly taking on regional dimensions as Burundian rebels allegedly attack from bases in Tanzania as well as the Democratic Republic of Congo, where they have joined the coalition of rebel movements and Kabila-allied forces ;
- E. A humanitarian crisis is looming as a result of the ongoing insecurity and the embargo, which was applied by the neighbouring African states after the take-over of president Buyoya in 1996, and which was only temporarily lifted on January 23 this year ;
- F. A double-track peace process is underway, consisting of an external dialogue in Arusha and an internal dialogue organised by president Buyoya inside Burundi, the first being hampered by the death of facilitator Nyerere, the latter by lack of outside support and increased attempts by militias to destabilise the country ;

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- G. International assistance has been conditionalised to the outcome of the peace talks in Arusha, whereas it is feared that by then the country will have sunk away in an ungovernable crisis ;
- H. Extremists on both sides seem to be gaining influence and Burundi is rapidly sliding into a situation similar to Rwanda just before the genocide ;

#### Condemns

1. the killing of civilians and other human rights abuses by all parties in the conflict ;
2. the killing of two UN workers and seven other people in southern Burundi on October 12 ;

#### Demands

1. that all parties involved in the conflict cease hostilities, respect the life of aid workers and civilians and resume talks to end the conflict in Burundi and allow the displaced people to go home ;
2. that the international community, and the EU in particular, should do more to support the peace-talks both in Arusha and inside Burundi and put pressure on all parties involved in the conflict to keep the peace process on track ;
3. that the Organisation of African Unity should organise as soon as possible a regional meeting as to appoint a new facilitator in the Arusha peace talks ;
4. that the government of Tanzania, which is mediating in the conflict, should do everything possible to prevent Burundian militias from operating from its territory ;
5. that the international community, and the EU in particular, should increase its humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population as to avoid an all-out humanitarian catastrophe ;

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6. that the international community should seriously examine the possibility of providing economic and other support in order to help Burundi, avoid a total collapse of the system and a further destabilisation of the region ;
7. That humanitarian organisations should be allowed access to all parts of the country, including the protected camps.

Asks

Its president to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the government of Burundi and all parties involved in the conflict.