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Proposal for a resolution

Tabled by Anna KARAMANOU, NAPOLETANO, GHILARDOTTI, PACIOTTI

in the name of the PES Group

violences à l'encontre de religieuses catholiques

B5-261/01

The European parliament,

- having regard to Article 11(1) of the Treaty on European Union, which establishes the promotion of human rights
- having regard to its resolution of 17 December 1998 on human rights in the world, and the European Union human rights policy
- having regarded to its resolution of 10 March 1999 on violence against women
- having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women

On the responsibility of the Holy See with regards to human rights violations by Catholic priests

- A. whereas the European Parliament consistently condemns violence against women,
- B. whereas the European Parliament cinsistently condemns rape of women,
- C. whereas the 15 member states of the European Union recognise the Holy See as a state, and maintain diplomatic relations with it,
- D. whereas, last week, the Vatican confirmed that it was aware of cases of rape and sexual abuse of women, including nuns, by Catholic priests

whereas the Holy See had already acknowledged these violations in a written report in February 1994, and again in a confidential meeting on the 21 February 1995,

whereas in official communication with the Holy See, it has been stated as early as 1990 that, "pressure has been exerted on religious women by priests to procure abortions in those hospitals for religious sisters",

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whereas the report made in February 1994 by Maura O'Donohue, member of the Medical Missionaries of Maria, identified that these types of violations take place in at least 23 countries including Ireland, Italy and the United States of America,

whereas her report notifying the appropriate Holy See officials of these human rights violations was only responded to confidentially, without any form of action for seven years,

whereas Sister Marie McDonald, presented a four page paper entitled " The Problem of the Sexual Abuse of African Religious authorities in Africa and Rome" to the Council of 16 in November 1998,

whereas Joaquin Navarro-Valls, official spokesman for the Holy See, stated that " the problem is known, and is restricted to a geographically limited area.", raising concerns that the Holy See is attempting to marginalise the problem,

whereas these incidents, if not dealt with more effectively, could undermine the position and credibility of the Catholic Church including its excellent war against the death penalty and poverty,

whereas the Holy See has used its position as permanent observer status of the UN to obstruct assistance to rape victims that have become pregnant,

whereas the Holy See is one of the foremost opponents to sexual and reproductive rights of women in the UN

1. condemns violation of all women's rights and bodies; and expresses its solidarity with the victims
2. calls on the Holy See and all countries involved to bring the perpetrators to justice and remove them from official office,
3. calls on the Holy See to reinstate those female officials who have been ousted from their positions for drawing their supervisors attention to these abuses and provide the necessary protection and compensation from discrimination which might ensue,
5. calls on the Holy See to grant compensation to victims and make counselling available for all those involved in these abuses,
6. calls on the Holy See to speed up its investigations and ensure that procedures are in place to prevent violations like this from taking place in the future,
7. calls on the member states that maintain diplomatic relation with the Holy See to use their diplomatic channels to draw attention to international conventions on women's rights,
8. calls on the countries affected to pursue further legal inquiry where the proper jurisdiction exists over citizens who have performed these violations, and who are both citizens of the Holy See and the above mentioned nations,
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States, as well as the government of the Holy See and the UN high commissioner for human rights.

Handwritten signatures and text:
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