

11/06/01

OR

05- 464/01

Draft Proposal for Urgency resolution

Tabled by Van den Berg, Seguro and Fava on behalf of the PES Group

On Guatemala

The European Parliament

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Guatemala,
 - having regard to its resolution of 16 March 2000 on support for the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and international humanitarian law
 - having regard to the Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union of 25 April 2001 in relation to the third anniversary of the death of Bishop Juan Gerardi and the call for the end of impunity
 - having regard to its profound and lasting commitment to the peace process in Guatemala
- A. whereas the State of Guatemala has ratified both the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;
- B. whereas the Commission for Historical Clarification has recommended that, in particular those responsible for the instigating or promoting crimes against humanity, including genocide, be brought to justice by the Guatemalan authorities;
- C. whereas President Portillo of Guatemala has declared publicly that the recommendations of the Commission for Historical Clarification be converted into undertakings of Government and State
- D. whereas the obligation of the Member States of the European Union is to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law
1. Calls on the Guatemalan authorities to carry out a full investigation into the allegations of crimes against humanity and genocide committed during the civil war and the bring, in particular, those responsible for planning, instigating or promoting such crimes to justice in Guatemala
 2. Notes with concern the increase in the number of threats and attacks against judges, lawyers and human rights organisations and calls on the Member States to support President Portillo in putting an end to these incidents and to re-establish the priority of the peace accords and the recommendations of the Commission for Historical Clarification

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3. Asks the Commission and the Member States to support the initiatives currently in progress with a view to bringing those responsible for genocide and crimes against humanity to justice
- 4.
5. Asks and expects the Guatemalan authorities to guarantee full independence and liberty in the work of the Guatemalan judicial powers responsible for the investigation of these crimes
6. Asks the Commission and Member States to support the Guatemalan State in protecting witnesses, lawyers and human rights organisations who participate in the bringing of legal actions against those allegedly responsible for these crimes;
7. Emphasises the special importance of ending the atmosphere of impunity for political crimes and gross human rights abuses
8. Assures the Guatemalan State of its continued interest and support in its transition to peace and democracy
9. Calls on all Guatemalans, and particularly their authorities, to make determined efforts to continue implementing the peace accords in order to create a freer, more democratic and socially just society
10. Calls on the Commission to maintain vigilance in the progress of Guatemala towards peace and democracy

Fr

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