



EUROPEAN LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
LES LIBERAUX DEMOCRATES EUROPEENS
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

Strasbourg, 4 February, 2002

BS-95/02

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marieke Sanders-Ten Holte, Bob van den Bos and Lone Dybkjaer on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the human rights situation in Eritrea

The European Parliament,

- A. Whereas President Isayas Afewerki ordered the detention of prominent dissidents and closed down the private press accusing it of undermining national unity;
- B. Whereas a constitution with provisions for creating civil liberties was adopted in 1997, but has never been complemented;
- C. Whereas no effective mechanism for challenging government policy and operations exists in Eritrea;
- D. Whereas the international donor community is considering whether to stop development aid in light of the government's crackdown on dissent;
 1. Expresses its concern about growing repression of dissent in Eritrea, following the government's crackdown on the opposition and the cancellation of multiparty elections;
 2. Urges that all those who have been arrested should be released immediately;

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3. Condemns President Isayas Afewerki's governing by proclamation, unrestricted by a transitional national assembly that meets infrequently;
4. Expresses its concern that the detainees were charged and brought to trial before the Special Court, which fails to meet international standards for a fair trial;
5. Calls on the National Assembly to lift the ban on the private press;
6. Stresses that the above-mentioned events contradicted the declared policy of the Eritrean Government and the commitments undertaken in favour of democracy, rule of law, human rights and good governance;
7. Confirms its commitment to support the development of Eritrea, as well as peace, stability and cooperation in the region;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government of Eritrea.

pp. Mrs Sanders - Tom Holte
Mr van den Boos
Mrs Dybjaer
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