

11/3/02

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MOTION FOR RESOLUTION (art. 50)

by Junker , Kinnock, Sauquillo et Martinez
on behalf of the PSE Group

BS-166/02

On Zimbabwe

The European Parliament,

- Meeting in Cape Town [South Africa] from 18 to 21 March 2002;
 - having regard to previous resolutions on Zimbabwe tabled by the Joint Parliamentary Assembly;
 - having regard to resolutions tabled by the European Parliament on 13 April 2000, 18 May 2000, 6 July 2000, 15 March 2001, 6 September 2001 and 13 December 2001 on the situation in Zimbabwe;
 - having regard to the Agreement reached in Abuja on 6 September 2001 between the Committee of the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers, including a number of African States, and the Zimbabwean Government to return Zimbabwe to the rule of law and end all illegal occupations of farmland;
 - having regard to the General Affairs Council conclusions of 25 June 2001, 8 October 2001, 29 October 2001; and 10 December 2001, which launched the consultation procedure provided for in Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement; and 18 February 2002 when the EU unanimously agreed to implement targeted "smart" sanctions on Zimbabwe in the form of an arms embargo, travel ban and freeze on the assets of President Mugabe and 19 named associates;
 - having regard to the Heads of Commonwealth meeting in Brisbane from 2 to 5 March 2002;
 - having regard to the next General Affairs Council meeting in Brussels from 11 to 12 March 2002, the EU Heads of State and Government meeting in Barcelona from 15 to 16 March 2002, and the EU Development Council meeting in Brussels on 30 May 2002;
 - having regard to the G-8 Summit in Kananaskis [Canada] from 26 to 28 June 2002;
- A. Whereas violence, human rights abuses and politically motivated killing, mostly perpetrated by the Zanu-PF youth militia, goes on unabated with the Human Rights Forum reporting that President Mugabe's militant supporters have set up at least 22 militia bases across Zimbabwe to intimidate voters; and that in January there were 16 politically related killings: the highest monthly toll since March 2000 when ruling ZANU-PF party militants began occupying farms;
- B. Whereas in 2000 there were 36 deaths due to political violence in Zimbabwe, and a further 89 died in 2001; furthermore in the first 16 days of February alone 159 were tortured, 62 kidnapped and 4 disappearances - an alarming increase from the 142 cases reported for all of January;

316. 494

- C. Whereas the adoption of repressive legislation: the Public Order and Security Act, the General Laws Amendment Act, and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act severely restricts the ability of opposition politicians to conduct an open election campaign, and seriously undermines the freedom of the local, national and international media to report objectively;
- D. Whereas the Zimbabwe Government encourages the police to use new powers to cancel rallies organised by the Movement for Democratic Change [MDC] and prevent the dissemination of MDC campaign literature, and has seconded 72 senior army officers to the Electoral Supervisory Commission for an indefinite period - a move that has stunned Civil Society;
- E. Whereas the first EU election observers arrived in Zimbabwe on 3 February 2002, but President Mugabe objected to the presence of observers from six EU Member States on the grounds that their judgement would not be objective, and subsequently expelled the EU's Chief Observer, Ambassador Pierre Schori, on 16 February 2002;
- F. Whereas under new legislation it is compulsory to be in possession of an identity card to vote and notes that hundreds of Zimbabweans are being disenfranchised on a daily basis through the confiscation of their identify cards by Zanu-PF youth militias;
- G. Whereas the restrictive framework imposed by Zimbabwe's Government on election observers contradicts international standards for democratic elections, and contravenes the specific SADC Parliamentary Forum Norms and Standards adopted in 2001 for all elections across the region, including Zimbabwe;
- H. Whereas the UN World Food Programme has stated that the needs of 558,000 malnourished Zimbabweans are becoming increasingly urgent as drought and food shortages continue;
- I. Whereas economic problems in Zimbabwe are such that inflation is running at 116.7%, unemployment at a record 60%, over 80% of Zimbabwe's 12.5 million people living below the poverty line, the education and health systems are crumbling and over 2,000 Zimbabweans die each week from AIDS;
1. Notes that the EU can take additional measures at a later date should the situation deteriorate further, and calls on the Commonwealth, OECD and the G8 to support further moves such as an extension of the EU's blacklist of President Mugabe and 19 ZANU-PF insiders to include Zimbabwe's Vice-Presidents Simon Muzenda and Joseph Msika, and the Finance Minister Simba Makoni;
2. Welcomes the decision by the United States to 'move rapidly' to implement a similar package of targeted sanctions, and urges other countries and international organisations to follow suit; notes in particular that the USA will focus on "individuals responsible for or who benefit from politics that undermine Zimbabwe's democratic institutions";
3. Welcomes the EU's contribution of €170,000 to support the election observation efforts of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and domestic observers, but is concerned by the reports of 'no go areas' for monitors and by senior South African election observer Brigalia Bam's observation that the mission did not have a true monitoring role and had limited powers;

4. Urges the Government of Zimbabwe to create conditions which enable the people of Zimbabwe to go to the polls freely on 9 and 10 March and without fear of reprisals; and to allow members of the national and international media to cover the presidential election free from all reporting restrictions;
5. Hopes that local monitors and other international observers from nations like Australia, Norway and New Zealand will be allowed to carry out their duties free from intimidation and violence;
6. Urges the Government of Zimbabwe to allow observers to escort ballot boxes to the counting offices and believes that at no time should they be prevented from doing so,
7. Urges the international community not to recognise President Mugabe as a legitimate head of state if he blatantly distorts the outcome of the forthcoming presidential election;
8. Warns the Southern African region and international community that if the result of March's Presidential election is a flagrantly stolen poll, there is a serious risk of economic, social and political instability - exacerbated by hunger and despair - spreading across Zimbabwe's borders;
9. Instructs the Co-Presidents to forward a copy of this resolution to the Commission, the ACP-EU Council, the Secretaries-General of the African Union, United Nations and the OECD, the Presidents of the European Investment Bank, World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and the Government of Zimbabwe.

