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EUROPEAN LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
LES LIBERAUX DEMOCRATES EUROPEENS
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

Strasbourg, 8 April, 2002

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 Lone Dybkjaer and Cecilia Malmström on behalf of the ELDR Group

on Violation of human rights in Nigeria

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Nigeria;
- A. whereas there is an increasing number of people being sentenced to the death penalty, flogging or amputation as a result of sentences passed by Sharia courts in northern Nigeria;
- B. whereas an Islamic court at Bakori in Katsina State has recently sentenced Amina Lawal, a 35-year-old woman from the village of Kurami to die, after she confessed to having a child while divorced;
- C. whereas six men have had their hands amputated for theft and one man has been sentenced to death by stoning for sodomy with a minor;
- 1. Welcomes the decision by the Sharia Court of Appeal of Sokoto State, in northern Nigeria, to act positively on Safiya Yakubu Hussaini's appeal against her sentence of stoning to death for adultery and ordering her acquittal;
- 2. Expresses its deep concern at the implementation of new Sharia-based penal codes since January 2000 in a number of northern states in Nigeria;

317.153

3. Considers punishments such as stoning, flogging or amputation as cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by international human rights standards;
4. Considers that the current practice and many regulations in the new Sharia penal codes and Sharia codes of criminal procedure violate many international human rights instruments ratified by Nigeria, including the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
5. Expresses its categorical opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances because its represents the ultimate violation of the right to life guaranteed by international law;
6. Urges the Nigerian federal authorities to reiterate their commitment to international human rights legislation and to take all necessary steps to ensure that both at federal and state level, all penal cases being judged under Sharia law meet internationally recognised human rights standards and honour all the international human rights legal instruments signed and ratified by Nigeria;
7. Urges the Nigerian federal authorities to guarantee the constitutional right of appeal for all those condemned under Sharia-based penal codes ensuring that they are able to appeal to higher jurisdictions, not only at state level but also at federal level;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the African Union, the Government of Nigeria and the UN Secretary General.

317.153