

Strasbourg, 10 June, 2002

B5-348/02

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 Bob van den Bos, Colette Flesch and Isidoro Sanchez Garcia on behalf of the ELDR Group

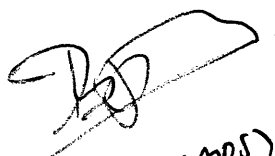
on the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Equatorial Guinea;
- A. whereas a trial began on 23 May 2002 in the capital, Malabo against 144 detainees, including leaders of opposition parties who are accused of trying to kill the President, conspiracy and incitement to rebellion;
- B. whereas since the trial started, independent journalists have faced insidious pressure on a daily basis;
- C. whereas the UN Special Rapporteur's mandate on Human Rights in Equatorial Guinea, an institution significantly pressuring the dictatorial government since 1979, has ended;
- D. concerned at the ongoing political purges in the small central African dictatorship;
- E. whereas detainees, held incommunicado for their alleged links with a not yet legalised opposition party, are at risk of dying under torture;

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- F. whereas Guillermo Nguema Elá, a former Minister of Finance and opposition leader, reportedly died from the injuries he sustained while tortured in detention;
- G. reaffirming that all states have an obligation to promote and protect human rights;
1. Urges the President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema, to allow the independent press to cover freely and safely the trial of 144 opposition members accused of plotting against the government;
 2. Calls on the government of Equatorial Guinea to make serious efforts to broaden the dialogue with opposition parties and groups so as to guarantee political rights, democracy and pluralism;
 3. Expresses its concern that freedom of expression and of the press has been systematically undermined in Equatorial Guinea for over thirty years and the independent press is virtually non-existent;
 4. Considers international monitoring essential in Equatorial Guinea in order to ensure the implementation of the recommendations repeatedly made over the last 20 years;
 5. Deplores the fact that families of detainees are being denied access to their relatives and that nobody knows where they are being held and that torture by the security forces is routine in Equatorial Guinea;
 6. Encourages the Government of Equatorial Guinea to adhere to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to submit to the Human Rights Committee and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women;
 7. Calls on the specialised bodies and agencies of the United Nations, as well as donor countries and any other international institutions present in the country, to assist the Government of Equatorial Guinea in strengthening the national institutions on human rights;
 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the OAU and the Government of Equatorial Guinea.


(VAN DAN BOUDS)


(FLESLH)


(SANCHEZ-GARCIA)