

10/6/02

B5-350/02

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the case of Mr Riad al Turk and the human rights situation in Syria

tabled by Alima Boumediene, Helene Flautre, Yves Pietrasanta and Matti Wuori
on behalf of the Green/EFA group in the PE

The European Parliament

Alima Boumediene
Matti Wuori
Helene Flautre
Yves Pietrasanta

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Syria and the Euro-mediterranean partnership,
- having regard to the Barcelona declaration,
- A. Pointing out that over the past 18 months the Syrian authorities have stepped up pressure to restrict freedom of expression on many opposition leaders, members of parliament and human rights activists,
- B. Concerned by the wave of detention against government opponents imprisoned exclusively for their peaceful political activities and criticism of the authorities,
- C. Highly concerned, in particular, by the case of Mr Riad al Turk, detained as a prisoner of conscience from 1980 to 1998 because of his opposition to the Syrian government and arrested again by security forces on September 2001 on charges including attempting to change the Constitution by illegal means,
- D. Pointing out the deteriorating health conditions of Mr Riad al Turk who was initially held incommunicado and in solitary confinement,
- E. Recalling that in his opening speech to parliament President Bashar Al Assad had made clear references to democracy raising expectations of a deep changes in the Syrian civil society,
- F. Stressing that the respect for human rights, the development of democracy and the implementation of the rule of law are fundamental elements of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership,
- G. Pointing out that the EU is negotiating with Syria an association agreement which includes the so-called "democratic clause" the non respect of which should lead to the suspension of such agreement,
- 1. Calls on the Syrian authorities and in particular President Bashar-al-Assad to:
 - a) Immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience including: Riad al-Turk, Mamun al-Humsi, Riad Seif, 'Aref Dalilah, Walid al-Bunni, Kamal al-Labwani, Habib Salih, Hassan Sa'dun, Habib 'Isa, Fawwaz Tello, Hussain Daoud and 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyir;
 - b) Ensure that detainees are well-treated and not subjected to torture and/or other ill-treatment by members of the Syrian security services;

319.731

- c) Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment without reservations and implement its provisions;
 - d) Ensure that detained or imprisoned people are given prompt and regular and unrestricted access to family, lawyers and doctors;
 - f) Implement international standards with regard to treatment of prisoners and prison conditions such as the UN Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment;
2. Calls on the Commission and the Council to make clear with Syria that the negotiations of the Association Agreement are linked to clear improvements of the human rights situation in the country;
 3. Urges the Commission to strengthen MEDA-democracy programmes for Syria supporting the development of a real civil society and the projects of independent NGOs;
 4. Instructs its President to forward the present resolution to the Council, Commission and the President and the Government of Syria.