1/7/02

Proposal for a resolution on human rights violation in Egypt
Tabled by Alima Boumediene-Thiery, Yves Pietrasanta and Matti Wuori
On behalf of the Green/EFA group in the EP

The European Parliament

- having regard to Article 11 (1) of the Treaty on European Union and Article 177 of the EC Treaty, which establish the promotion of human rights as an objective of the common foreign and security policy,

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- having regard to the European Parliament resolution on human rights in Egypt on the 14/06/2001,
- having regard to the draft Euro-Mediterranean agreement between the European Community and its Member States and the Arab Republic of Egypt (8220/2001), where respect of human and civil rights constitutes an essential element of the agreement,
- having regard to the Egyptian law that does not penalise homosexuality as a sexual offence,
- A. whereas 52 men were arrested by Egyptian police officers on charges of "obscene behaviour" and "contempt for Muslim religion" on 11 May 2001,
- B. whereas 3 of them were sentenced for contempt on religion,
- 1. expresses its concern at the likelihood of a retrial of 52 men, arrested in Egypt in November 2001,
- 2. considers that the 52 men were charged because of their sexual orientation that constitutes a serious discrimination and violation of basic human rights protected by the international law,
- 3. expresses its concern and reaffirms that the 52 men should be afforded universal human rights. Namely: right to a fair trial; right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; right to freedom from torture and cruel or inhuman treatment; right to privacy; right to equality before the law and reaffirms Article 14.7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that "no one should be liable to be tried or punished again for an offence for which he has already been finally convicted or acquitted in accordance with the law and penal procedure of each country",
- 4. calls the Egyptian government to review its penal code and not to prosecute the homosexuality on the basis of "public indecency",
- 5. calls on Egypt, which ratified the ICCR in 1982, to reaffirm its commitment to the Covenant and to cease any consideration of a retrial, and to maintain the Presidential pardon and extend it to the three who remain imprisoned,
- 6. instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Member countries of the UN Human Rights Commission and the Government of Egypt.