

01.09.2002

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 Kinnock, Junker, Sauquillo and Van den Berg
on behalf of the PES Group

B5-0469/02

on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions of 13 April 2000, 18 May 2000, 6 July 2000, 15 March 2001, 6 September 2001, 13 December 2001, 14 March 2002, 15 May 2002 and 3 July 2002 on the situation Zimbabwe;
- A. whereas there are reports of women and children being taken to camps and raped, on the grounds that they are suspected of supporting the opposition MDC;
- B. whereas there are allegations of a deliberate ruling party militia against women targeted because of their political affiliations, or their husbands';
- C. whereas the food crisis in Zimbabwe has been seriously exacerbated by the actions of the Mugabe regime which continues to deny food aid to thousands of people suspected of supporting the MDC;
- D. whereas Zimbabweans, regardless of colour, are living in fear and under threat of state-sanctioned violence and the so-called land reform agenda is an excuse for political violence and criminal activity;
- E. whereas not only just farm owners are victims of violence but also thousands of farm workers;
- F. whereas the EU Council Common Position of 18 February 2002 introduced measures by Member States to prevent entry into their territories of 20 named Zimbabwean Ministers and officials and this list was expanded on 19 July 2002 ;
- G. whereas the clauses providing for exemptions from the travel ban have been exploited by those on the banned list;
- H. whereas Robert Mugabe and other regime figures have been attending the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and deliver a

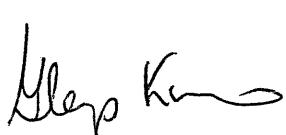
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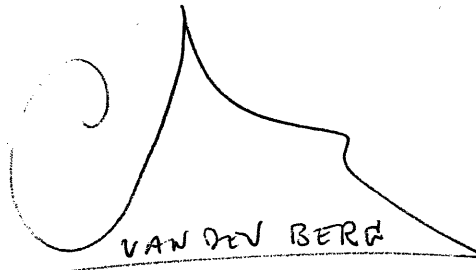
speech in which he praises his land reform as an example for sustainability while Zimbabwe is descending further into chaos;

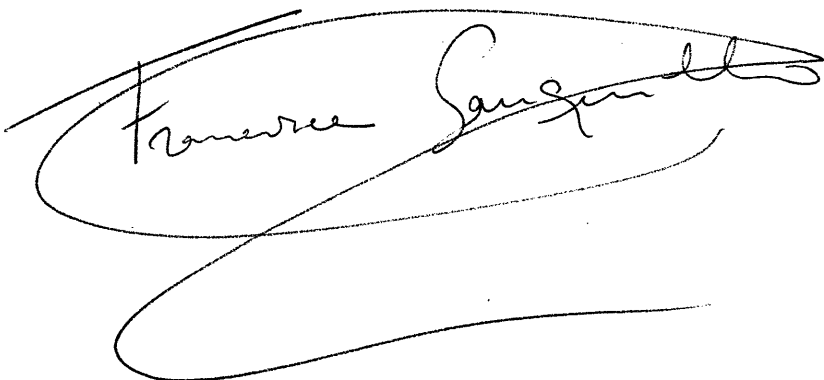
- I. whereas the clauses providing for exemptions from the travel ban have been exploited by those on the banned list, notably by Zimbabwean Police Commissioner Augustine Chihuri, who has recently attended meetings of the Executive Committee of Interpol in Lyon, France;
 - J. whereas Chihuri's presence in an EU Member State is doubly offensive, firstly as blatant defiance of the EU's sanctions and secondly in that the police force that he commands is an instrument for the oppression of the people of Zimbabwe, while it is alleged that Chihuri himself has corruptly benefited from Mugabe's land seizure policies;
 - K. whereas President Mbeki of South Africa has a particular opportunity and responsibility to show leadership in helping bring about urgent change for the better in Zimbabwe;
1. Deeply condemns human rights violation in Zimbabwe and in particular violence against women;
 2. Insists that the situation in Zimbabwe remains a high priority for the EU and for the wider international community;
 3. Insists that the travel ban and other EU measures against the Mugabe regime be rigorously enforced, without exception;
 4. Expresses grave concern at the magnitude of the food crisis facing Zimbabwe and other countries in southern Africa and stresses that the land redistribution programme will worsen the country's food crisis, as up to 6 million Zimbabweans may need food aid this year;
 5. Calls on the President Mbeki to take the initiative in bringing pressure to bear on Zimbabwe, through imposition of regional targeted sanctions, and to demand fresh presidential elections in Zimbabwe under international supervision;
 6. Condemns the systematic attacks on MDC supporters and party structures;
 7. Condemns continues political persecutions: almost all MDC leadership facing charges of some sort;
 8. condemns the politically motivated decision to put PDC President Morgan Tsvangirai, MDC Secretary General Welshman Ncube and MDC Shadow Agriculture Minister Renson Gasela, on trial for treason;

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9. condemns the continued attacks on the independent media in Zimbabwe, in particular the recent bomb attack on the offices of the Voice of the People, an independent radio station based in Harare;
10. Condemns the continued subverting of the judiciary by the incumbent regime in Zimbabwe;
11. expresses concern that the forthcoming local council elections in Zimbabwe, scheduled for September 28 and 29 2002, will not be free and fair: expresses grave concern about the possibility of violence against opposition candidates and supporters; notes that international actors will be paying close attention to the local council elections; calls on the Mugabe regime to end political violence and allow opposition groups to campaign without fear and intimidation during these elections;
12. calls on SADC countries and the UK to take stronger action against Mugabe and increase diplomatic pressure;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the governments of Zimbabwe and South Africa and the Secretaries-General of the Commonwealth, the SADC, the African Union and the United Nations.


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