

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

18 November 2002

B5-0595/2002

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 50(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by Yasmine Boudjenah, Helmuth Markov and Pernille Frahm

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the case of Hashem Aghajari in Iran

Resolution on the case of Hashem Aghajari in Iran

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Iran,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the death penalty,
 - having regard to the UN Charter on Human Rights,
 - having regard to its resolution of 13 December 2001 on EU relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran,
- A. appalled at the death sentence for blasphemy passed on 6 November by a court in the city of Hamedan on Mr Hashem Aghajari, a leader of the Islamic Revolutionary Mujahedin Organisation, for having spoken in favour of ‘Islamic Protestantism’ and stated that Muslims should not ‘blindly follow religious leaders’ in June 2002,
- B. whereas President Mohammad Khatami has called the verdict ‘inappropriate’ and has asked the judiciary to review the death sentence,
- C. mindful of the many demonstrations in Iran against the verdict, especially by students,
- D. appalled at the large number of death sentences actually carried out in Iran,
1. Condemns the unjust verdict against Hashem Aghajari and calls for it to be reviewed;
 2. Welcomes the extent of the demonstrations in Iran against the verdict;
 3. Calls on the Iranian authorities to abolish the death penalty and respect human rights, including freedom of speech and of expression, as well as the fundamental principles of law and justice;
 4. Calls on Iran to comply with all of its international obligations as a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
 5. Insists that any agreement or dialogue between the EU and the Islamic Republic of Iran be conditional upon respect for human rights;
 6. Instructs its delegation for relations with Iran to place the issue of human rights, and more specifically the case of Hashem Aghajari, on the agenda for its next meeting with members of the Iranian Parliament;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and candidate countries, and the Government and Parliament of Iran.