

18/11/02

Wider

Motion for a resolution

pursuant to Rule 50

tabled by Th MANN and Maria MARTENS

B5-602/02

in the name of the EPP-ED Group

on Human Rights in Bangladesh

The European Parliament,

- recalling its previous resolutions on Bangladesh
 - having regard to the EU - Bangladesh Cooperation Agreement
 - Whereas the Bangladesh Government on 17th October 2002 launched an operation aimed at a crackdown on crime, under the name "Operation Clean Heart", with more than 5 thousand people arrested by now, including a number of opposition political leaders
 - Whereas this has been done and still is with recourse to the army;
 - Whereas there is mounting criticism of alleged violations of the human rights of those detained, as by Amnesty International and the USA Department of State;
 - Whereas around 20 people have already died in (military) detention;
1. Understands the necessity for the Bangladesh Authorities to improve the state of law and order in the country and counteract the fast growing levels of various types of criminal activities;
 2. Notes with concern that the role of the army in this operation is far from clear and fears that the crackdown on crime is also being used for political partisan purposes;
 3. Is very much concerned, deplores and criticises that the army is using torture of those detained as a tool for interrogation;

325. 117

4. Calls for a quick and independent investigation on the allegations of torture and the reasons for detainees to have died and for those responsible to be brought to justice;

5. Instructs its President..... Council, Commission and the Government and Parliament of Bangladesh.