

18/11/02

Wider

B5-603/02

Motion for a resolution

pursuant to Rule 50

tabled by GAHLER, MAIJ-WEGGEN and POSSELT

in the name of the EPP-ED Group

on the case of Mr Hachem Aghajari in Iran

The European Parliament,

- recalling its recent resolutions on Iran

A Whereas a Court in the town of Hamedan, sentenced university professor Hachem Aghajari to death for allegedly insulting Prophet Mohammad and further sentenced him to exile in Tabas, Zabol and Gomabad and banned him from teaching for 10 years

B Whereas this sentence has triggered widespread strikes amongst university students in protest against the verdict

C Whereas Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karroubi reportedly called the death penalty against Mr Aghajari "a shame for the country's judiciary system" and President Katami was quoted as saying the verdict "never should have been issued at all"

D Whereas the verdict will be considered final unless Mr Aghajari appeals, the prosecutor general decides the verdict is against legal procedures, or the judge admits he issued a wrong verdict

E Whereas the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei ordered the Judiciary to review the verdict and it is reported that Mr Aghajari's attorney then announced that he would appeal the sentence

1 Welcomes the steps taken in Iran leading to a review of the verdict against professor Aghajari

325.118

2 Instructs its Foreign Affairs Committee to follow closely developments in Iran in the perspective of an early return visit of an Iranian Parliamentary Delegation

3 Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Government and Parliament of Iran.