

16/12/02

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

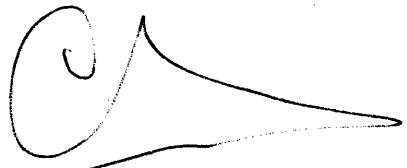
35-652/02

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 SWOBODA, TRENTIN, VAN DEN BERG on behalf of the PES Group

on the destruction of the cultural heritage of Hebron

The European Parliament,



- recalling its previous resolutions on the Middle Est conflict,
- recalling the resolutions 242 and 338 of the UN Security Council,

A) whereas one of the consequences of the Israeli-Palestine conflict is the destruction of part of the Palestinian historical heritage, in particular Nablus, Bethlehem and Hebron;

B) whereas on November 29th 2002 the Israeli Army issued the military order n. 2/61/T which calls for the demolition of the homes of 110 families in Hebron's Old City in order to create a road that will directly connect the Israeli settlement of Qiriat Arba with the Ibrahimi Mosque;

C) whereas many of the building threatened by the plan date from 16th to 19th century and are intrinsic of the historic built environment surrounding the Mosque;

D) whereas due to the presence in the centre of Hebron of a small Israeli settlement, composed by approximately 400 persons and protected by many more soldiers, most of the city of Hebron has been under frequent 24 hours curfew for the past two years and already faced extensive destruction;

E) whereas Muslims have no access anymore to the Ibrahimi Mosque, one of the holiest place for Islam;

F) rappelant que cette situation est une des conséquences de la politique de colonisation en Cisjordanie et dans la bande de Gaza, mise en oeuvre par les différents gouvernements israéliens et que le Parlement Européen a condamnée à maintes reprises;

G) whereas the fact that Israel is target of Palestinian indiscriminate terrorist attacks to its population cannot be accepted as a reason to destroy the Palestinian heritage, and whereas the demolition plan in Hebron is not related to any anti-terrorist measure;

H) rappelant les conventions internationales qui interdisent les punitions collectives à l'encontre des populations civiles qui ne peuvent pas être considérées comme les responsables des actes commis par des individus;

I) soulignant qu'au mouvement pacifiste de renommée internationale "Peace Now" le gouvernement israélien a refusé le droit de manifester contre la démolition des maisons à Hebron, alors qu'en même temps il autorise souvent des manifestations des colons hébreux de Qiryat Arba

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J) soulignant aussi la gravité de la déstruction du patrimoine culturel palestinien mise en oeuvre par l'armée israélienne dans d'autres villes palestiniennes, notamment à Betlehem;

- 1) demande le retrait immédiat de l'armée israélienne des territoires palestiniens réoccupés après septembre 2000;
- 2) demande aux autorités israéliennes d'annuler la décision de l'armée israélienne de procéder à la demolition des maisons du quartier Jaber à Hebron, ainsi que de s'abstenir de toute autre acte de destruction du patrimoine culturel palestinien;
- 3) recalls its ^{shay} ~~condemnation~~ of any terrorist attacks to Israel or palestine.
- 4) demande aux autorités israéliennes de mettre fin à l'ampliation des colonies de peuplement, qui représentent un obstacle dans le processus de paix et aggravent de plus en plus les conditions de vie du peuple palestinien en Cisjordanie et dans la bande de Gaza ;
- 5) Considers the demolition of historical part of Palestine an unacceptable and further form of collective punishment inflicted to the Palestinian people;
- 6) Considers that the destruction of cultural heritage a further obstacle in resuming a climate of minimum mutual trust and dialogue between the parties in order to reach a peaceful settlement of the conflict;
- 7) Recalls that the historical heritage of Palestine is an essential part of the Euro-Mediterranean identity;
- 8) Calls the Israeli authorities to grant access for all believers to the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and to the Nativity Church in Bethlehem;
- 9) Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Government and Parliament of Israel, the Palestine National Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Hebron City Council and the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee.