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EUROPEAN LIBERAL DEMOCRATS  
LES LIBERAUX DEMOCRATES EUROPEENS  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

BS-184/03

Strasbourg, 10 March 2003

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 Marieke Sanders-Ten Holte on behalf of the ELDR Group

**on the human rights situation in Nigeria, in particular the case of Amina Lawal**

The European Parliament,

- A. recalling its motion for a resolution adopted by the European Parliament in September 2002, opposing this death sentence;
- B. aware that the death sentence has been appealed and is due for hearing on 25 March 2003;
- C. recalling that Nigeria remains one of the few countries where a person can be sentenced to death for consensual sexual activity;
- D. shocked that the sentence is to be carried out two years after Amina Lawal has weaned her baby;
- E. whereas the execution of Amina Lawal for the alleged offences would breach the UN Charter on Fundamental Human Rights;
- F. whereas, if she is condemned, Amina Lawal would have the right to appeal this verdict before a non-religious court;
- G. whereas the new Federal Justice Minister, Kanu Agabi, has announced the Government's wish to appeal the Sharia court verdict and recalled that Moslems must benefit from the same rights and protection as other Nigerians, in conformity with the Constitution;
- H. considering that President Obasanjo has always been opposed to the death penalty based on Sharia law;

  
(M. Sanders)

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- I. whereas several important candidates to the forthcoming presidential elections are not opposed to the application of Sharia law;
  - J. whereas Sharia law is applied in eight Nigerian states, more for political than religious reasons;
  - K. whereas the application of Sharia law represents a threat to the unity of the Nigerian federal state.
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- 1. Calls on the Nigerian Government to assert its support in respect of this case;
  - 2. Regrets that the Nigerian Supreme Court has not yet declared Sharia law to be contrary to the Constitution;
  - 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the African Union, the co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the UN Secretary-General and the Government of Nigeria.

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