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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Luigi Vinci, Feleknas Uca, Yasmine Boudjenah, Alexandros Alavanos,
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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the searches made of the premises of the Human Rights Association of
Turkey in Ankara

European Parliament resolution on the searches made of the premises of the Human Rights Association of Turkey in Ankara

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on violations of human rights in Turkey,
- A. emphasising its commitment to the promotion of human rights throughout the world,
- B. concerned at the searches of the premises of the Human Rights Association of Turkey (IHD) in Ankara ordered by the Directorate-General responsible for antiterrorism and the state security authorities in Turkey on 6 May 2003,
- C. whereas the IHD is one of the main organisations working in Turkey to ensure respect for, and to promote, human rights, and that its efforts should therefore be supported,
- D. whereas leaders and grassroots activists of Turkish human rights organisations are frequently subjected to political intimidation and physical threats, and whereas to date 13 leaders of the IHD have been assassinated and hundreds of political cases have been brought against its activities,
- E. whereas, despite requests by IHD leaders in Ankara for an explanation, the police refused, during the searches, to give any explanation for their action and threatened those concerned with immediate arrest,
- F. whereas data processing equipment and documents were seized during the searches, without any statement being given to, and/or legal process served on, the leaders of the IHD, in violation of the Turkish penal code,
- 1. Condemns the searches and the methods used against the IHD; expresses its concern at the arbitrary nature of the searches and calls for a full explanation to be given, as required, to the IHD;
- 2. Expresses its support for the activities and campaigns to raise public awareness conducted by the IHD and by other Turkish human rights organisations;
- 3. Calls for an end to political intimidation against such organisations, and calls for the Government in Ankara and other Turkish authorities to give their unequivocal support to the aims of these civil society organisations;
- 4. Calls on the Council and the Commission to step up their involvement, particularly from a financial point of view, in programmes to promote human rights in Turkey; calls for the Commission to provide assistance to the IHD to compensate it for the destruction of data processing equipment and the seizure of part of its documentation centre;

5. Stresses to the Turkish Government that the promotion of human rights and the rule of law are fundamental aspects of the 'Copenhagen criteria' for accession to the European Union and that, accordingly, the various 'reform packages' in respect of the constitution and the law must be transposed unconditionally into implementing regulations;
6. Reiterates its call for the immediate release of Leyla Zana, the 1995 winner of the Sakharov prize, and of three other former Turkish Members of Parliament of Kurdish origin, against whom a new trial opened in Ankara on 28 March 2003;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Turkish Government and Turkish Parliament, the Human Rights Association of Turkey and the Human Rights Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly.