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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Jannis Sakellariou and Hannes Swoboda

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the search made of the Ankara headquarters of the Human Rights Association of Turkey

European Parliament resolution on the search made of the Ankara headquarters of the Human Rights Association of Turkey

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas on 6 May 2003 at 9.30 a.m., policemen from the anti-terrorism and security departments of the Directorate General for Security raided Turkey's Human Rights Association headquarters in Ankara under the supervision of the prosecutor of the State Security Court,
- B. whereas the prosecutor has declared that an investigation was launched under the jurisdiction of the State Security Court on the grounds of 'aiding and assisting illegal organisations',
- C. whereas the Human Rights Association is one of the main organisations working for respect and promotion of human rights in Turkey and its efforts should therefore be supported,
- D. whereas the Turkish Human Rights Association has noted that legal pressure has increased lately,
 1. Calls on the Turkish Government to give a clear explanation of the police raid on the Human Rights Association headquarters in Ankara;
 2. Notes that Turkey has amended most of its legislation regarding freedom of speech and association but regrets that these amendments still leave ample scope for repressive actions by the police and that little has changed on the ground;
 3. Stresses that political will on the part of Turkey to make radical changes to the structure of the state, its relationship to society, respect for human rights and the style of government is essential for progress towards EU membership;
 4. Calls on the Council and Commission to involve themselves more, particularly financially, in programmes to promote human rights in Turkey; calls on the Commission to assist the Human Rights Association following the destruction of its computer equipment and the seizure of part of the contents of its documentation centre;
 5. Reiterates its call for the immediate release of Leyla Zana, winner of the 1995 Sakharov Prize, and of the three other former members of the Turkish Parliament of Kurdish origin against whom fresh legal proceedings began in Ankara on 28 March 2003;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government and Parliament of Turkey, the Turkish Human Rights Association and the Human Rights Commission of the Turkish Grand National Assembly.