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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by John Corrie, Jean-Pierre Bébéar, Vitaliano Gemelli and Bernd Posselt

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on Burundi

PE 340.699

European parliament resolution on Burundi

The European parliament,

- having regard to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the Declaration by the Presidency of the EU of 19 November 2003,

A. shocked by the brutal murder of Monsignor Michael Courtney, the Apostolic Nuncio in Burundi, in a road ambush in Bururi province on 29 December 2003;

B. whereas Monsignor Courtney had been helping the peace process in Burundi in a quiet and effective manner, and had been instrumental in persuading some rebel groups to give up their armed struggle;

C. whereas the peace process had recently gathered momentum, with the signing on 16 November of the peace agreement between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) movement led by Pierre Nkurunziza, which follows the Pretoria Protocol signed on 8 October by the CNDD-FDD movement, and the subsequent agreements of 2 November signed by the FDD;

D. whereas, in what could constitute another breakthrough, a meeting has now been scheduled between President Ndayizeye and representatives of the Forces nationales de liberation (FNL) faction led by Agathon Rwasa, which was the only rebel group that had so far refused to enter peace negotiations with the Transitional Government;

E. regretting, however, that fighting is still going on in several provinces, especially in rural Bujumbura, and deploring in particular the killing of five people on 5 January in the eastern Bujumbura district of Gihosha;

F. seriously concerned at the degradation of the human rights situation, which has caused Oxfam to suspend its operations in the country, despite desperate needs;

1. Strongly condemns the brutal murder of Monsignor Courtney who, as a diplomat, was entitled to special protection by the authorities, and calls for a full and independent investigation in order to identify and bring to justice those responsible;

2. Calls on all parties to move swiftly to implement the recent peace agreements and to refrain from taking any action that might jeopardise the peace process;

3. Calls on Mr Agathon Rwasa's FNL movement to seize the opportunity presented by the forthcoming talks with President Ndayizeye to abandon the military option and join the peace process, and asks the Burundian authorities to do their utmost to foster negotiations with that movement;

4. Calls on the UN Security Council to consider the rapid constitution and deployment of a UN peace-keeping operation, to support the peace process at this critical moment, and to strengthen and complement the African Union peace-keeping mission already deployed; also calls on the

EU Council and Commission to increase their contribution to Burundi's peace and reconstruction process;

5. Condemns the ongoing hostilities and human rights abuses, in particular with regard to women and children, and reaffirms that there cannot be any impunity for war crimes, in particular those committed against civilians;

6. To this end, calls on the government of Burundi to implement the judicial reforms provided for in the Arusha Agreements, to end impunity and bring to justice all those who have perpetrated bloody crimes, and to proceed with the ratification of the Statute of the International Criminal Court;

7. Calls on all parties to allow the civilian population unhindered access to humanitarian aid and to encourage and facilitate the work of NGOs, especially in the health sector;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the African Union Commission and Executive Council, and the governments of Burundi, Tanzania and South Africa.