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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 Cecilia Malmström, Johan van Hecke and Colette Flesch

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the situation in Burundi

PE 340.706

**European parliament resolution on the situation in 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 made a significant contribution to the recent progress in the peace process in Burundi, and had been instrumental in persuading some rebel groups to give up their armed struggle;
- C. whereas the President of the Catholic Bishop's Conference in Burundi, Archbishop Simon Ntamwana, on the day of the funeral service, was ordered to leave the country within 30 days by the spokesman of the largest ethnic rebel group;
- D. 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;
- E. 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 into peace negotiations with the Transitional Government;
- F. 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;
- G. seriously concerned at the degradation of the human rights situation;
1. Strongly condemns the brutal murder of Monsignor Courtney, 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.