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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Yasmine Boudjenah, Luisa Morgantini, and Marianne Eriksson

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on Burma

PE 342.509

European parliament resolution on Burma

The European parliament,

A. whereas Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) members remain under house arrest following their detention on 30 May 2003 and NLD members continue to suffer arbitrary arrest and imprisonment,

B. whereas EU targeted sanctions against the Burmese military regime (the State Peace and Development Council - SPDC) require review and renewal by 29 April 2004,

C. whereas on 1 March 2004 UN Special Envoy Tan Sri Razali Ismail arrived in Burma for talks with the SPDC and the NLD, meeting both Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Prime Minister Khin Nyunt,

D. whereas on returning to Kuala Lumpur, Razali Ismail stated that the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other detained NLD leaders was an essential precondition for any meaningful dialogue with the regime,

E. whereas Razali Ismail met SPDC leaders in Thailand in February 2004 and was assured by Foreign Minister Win Aung that the SPDC would resume multi-party talks this year,

F. whereas on 20 January 2004 the Presidency announced that the EU visa ban and assets freeze list against the SPDC had been updated following a government reshuffle,

G. whereas on 16 June 2003 Council decided to bring forward the implementation of strengthened sanctions against the SPDC, originally envisaged to enter into force in October 2003, following the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders;

1. Demands the immediate release and full freedom of movement and expression for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other leading NLD members; demands the immediate release of all other political prisoners held by the SPDC;

2. Calls on the SPDC to initiate immediately meaningful dialogue with the NLD and ethnic groups to bring about a return to democracy and respect for human rights in Burma;

3. Insists that the SPDC relinquish its grip on power and that the results of the last elections held be fully respected;

4. Calls on the EU Council to agree tough new sanctions against the SPDC to enter into force at the end of 2004 if the regime has not taken tangible steps towards the restoration of democracy in Burma; these measures should include an import ban on products from Burmese industries operated by the SPDC and the curtailing of economic links with state-owned enterprises;

5. Calls on ASEAN states not to allow their relationship with the EU to be held hostage by the SPDC and to take meaningful steps to exercise their influence over the Burmese

regime to bring about change for the better in Burma;

6. Insists that Burma should not be allowed to take part in the ASEM meeting in October 2004 and, if the SPDC does attend, calls on EU Member States to refuse to participate;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the ASEAN Member States, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, UN Special Envoy Tan Sri Razali Ismail, the UN Secretary-General and the SPDC.