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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 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Frithjof Schmidt, Marie Hélène Aubert, Bernat Joan y Mari, Pierre Jonckheer and Carl Schlyter on behalf of the Green/Efa Group

On Human rights violation in Eritrea

PE 350.888

European parliament resolution on human rights violations in Eritrea

The European Parliament,

- A. Worried by the continuing deterioration of human rights situation in the country in general and by the arrest of thousands of people on suspicion of evading military conscription held at Adi Abeto army prison in particular
 - B. Whereas the Eritrean security force have indiscriminately arrested thousands of youth and others suspected of evading military conscription on November 4 this year and fearing that the prisoners may risk torture and ill-treatment,
 - C. Whereas national service for 18 months is compulsory for men and women aged 18 to 40 years and since the war with Ethiopia in 1998 -2000, national service has become full military service and it has been extended indefinitely,
 - D. Deploing the continued detention of Eritrean opposition leaders including 11 former members of government without trial since September 2001,
 - E. Deploing the ban on an independent press and the arrest of journalists since the government crackdown on independent media in September 2001,
 - F. Whereas many young people have fled the country to escape from military service and many people who were forcibly returned to Eritrea from Malta and Libya were arrested, tortured and sent to a secret prison where most of them are still detained incommunicado,
1. Condemns the human rights violation in Eritrea, in particular the crackdown on independent journalists, opposition leaders including the 11 dissidents, former members of the government, the shut down of the independent press,
 2. Calls for an independent inquiries on the killing of Adi Abeto prison on 4 November 2004,
 3. Calls on the Eritrean government to release all political prisoners including the 11 dissidents, independent journalists and the youth and allow them to have access to their lawyers and families,
 4. Calls on the government to fully respect fundamental freedoms of the population including freedom of expression, freedom of association including the formation political parties and calls to lift the ban on independent press,
 5. Reiterates its demand for an inter-Eritrean national conference to be held, bringing together the various political party leaders and representatives of civil society with a view to finding a solution on the current crisis and to setting the country on the path to democracy, political pluralism and sustainable development,

6. Calls on the Commission to open the consultation procedure with the government of Eritrea in accordance with art. 96 of the Cotonou agreement in order to stop human rights violation to pave the way for a political pluralism,
7. Instructs its president to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the African Union and the government of Eritrea.