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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Vittorio Agnoletto and Jonas Sjöstedt

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the human rights situation in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam

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European Parliament resolution on the human rights situation in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its earlier resolutions on Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam,
- having regard to the cooperation agreement between the European Community on the one hand and the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the other,
- having regard to the EC-Cambodia Country Strategy Paper 2000-2003 and the national indicative programme 2005-2006,
- having regard to the EU guidelines on the protection of human rights defenders approved by the European Council in July 2004,
- having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

On Cambodia

- A. whereas on 3 February 2005 the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia waived the parliamentary immunity of three members of the Sam Rainsy opposition party, namely its chairman, Sam Rainsy, and Chea Poch and Cheam Channy,
- B. whereas the violations of the rights of the defence confirm the illegality of the convictions of Cheam Channy and Khom Piseth by a military tribunal,

On Laos

- C. whereas the authorities of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, despite strong representations from the European Union, international organisations and other member States of the international community, have continued and even stepped up their attacks on freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of association, religion and political opposition,
- D. whereas the international media and human rights organisations continue to report violent abuses against the Lao-Hmong people,
- E. whereas the main leaders of the Movement of 26 October 1999, Thongpraseuth Keuakoun, Seng-Aloun Phengphan, Bouavanh Chanmanivong and Keochay, are still in detention and another of its leaders, Khamphouvieng Sisa-At, died in prison following ill-treatment and deprivation,
- F. whereas foreign observers, in particular those from Amnesty International, have been denied access to the territory of Laos,

On Vietnam

- G. whereas the ethnic minorities of the high plateaux (Centre and North), in particular the Montagnards, are being brutally repressed (brutal confiscation of ancestral lands, anti-Protestant religious repression) and the refugees who fled Vietnam and who have been repatriated under the recent Cambodia-Vietnam-UNHCR agreement have been the victims of repression by the Vietnamese authorities in breach of the 1951 Geneva Convention,
- H. whereas despite the recommendations made by the United Nations Human Rights Committee (ref. CCPR/CO/75/VNM of 26 July 2002) the Vietnamese authorities are taking advantage of their Legal System Development Strategy, a 10-year plan funded by donor countries, in particular the European Union and several Member States, to promulgate repressive laws,
- I. noting the testimony given by the Buddhist monk, Thien Minh, who recently left a re-education camp after 26 years in detention, concerning the conditions endured by prisoners of conscience in the Z30A camp in Xuan Loc,

On Cambodia

1. Calls on the Commission and Council to exert pressure on the Cambodian authorities to:
 - release Cheam Channy and restore the parliamentary immunity of Sam Rainsy and the two other representatives of his party;
 - submit within a reasonable timescale a timetable for political and institutional reform embarking on a real path towards a democratic state governed by the rule of law and founded on respect for fundamental freedoms;
 - finally demonstrate their genuine will to combat effectively the endemic scourges of corruption, massive deforestation and the sex tourism industry and to hunt down and bring to justice all those involved in such matters;
 - ensure that the court set up on the basis of a United Nations decision does indeed carry out its appointed task of trying former members of the Khmer Rouges responsible for massacres of Cambodian civilians;

On Laos

- 2) Calls on the Commission and Council to exert pressure on the Laotian authorities to:
 - release all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience;
 - draw up and implement as soon as possible the reform packages required to democratise the country, and to guarantee the peaceful expression of political opposition;
 - end the campaigns of persecution and repression against the Lao-Hmong population, against other ethnic minorities and against the Christian communities in the country;

- allow specialist UN agencies and representatives of humanitarian organisations unrestricted access so that they can visit, in total independence, political prisoners, the Hmong groups hiding in the jungle, and all ethnic and religious minorities in Laos;

On Vietnam

3) Calls on the Commission and Council to exert pressure on the Vietnamese authorities to:

- respect fundamental human rights and democratic principles, and in particular to promote freedom of expression;
- apply the Legal System Development Strategy in accordance with the recommendations made by the UN Human Rights Committee and with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- end all forms of repression of members of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam and officially recognise its existence and that of all other non-recognised Churches in the country;
- immediately and unconditionally release all Vietnamese political prisoners and prisoners of conscience detained for having legitimately and peacefully exercised their rights to freedom of opinion, freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of religion;

4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the governments and parliaments of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.