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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda 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 André Brie, Marco Rizzo, Tobias Pflüger,

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the humanitarian situation of the Iraqi refugees

European Parliament resolution on the humanitarian situation of the Iraqi refugees

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the United States, the United Kingdom and their allies continue to occupy Iraq; whereas the presence of foreign troops feeds the cycle of violence; whereas the US led invasion and its subsequent developments has led to widespread violence, conflicts and chaos threatening the unity of Iraq,
 - B. whereas an estimated 2 million Iraqis are refugees in neighbouring states without any formal protected status provided by these host states,
 - C. whereas the general humanitarian and human rights situation is deteriorating inside Iraq, as reflected by the regular reports of the UNAMI and other UN agencies in the country; whereas more than 2 million people are now Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and -according to the UNHCR- this situation concerns 2.3 to 2.5 million Iraqis; whereas in addition to the internally displaced, there are approximately 42,000 non-Iraqi refugees within Iraq; whereas IDPs are denied registration for food distribution, what increases the risk of a humanitarian crisis,
 - D. whereas the attitude of most EU Member States to recognising protection needs of Iraqi refugees has been extremely restrictive; whereas neighbouring countries have considerably restricted access for refugees, forcing many to return to Iraq or remain trapped at the borders, as well as imposing restrictive stay requirements, such as reducing periods of stay and/or making the renewal of their visas so difficult that most Iraqis quickly lose their legal status,
- 1. Souligne que la guerre imposée par les anglo-américains et leurs alliés empêche la réconciliation nationale, le développement et la stabilité de l'Irak; rappelle que la catastrophe humanitaire représentée par le nombre impressionnant de réfugiés irakiens est une responsabilité directe de ces gouvernements qui ont déclenché les hostilités;
 - 2. Condamne les Etats-Unis et la Grande-Bretagne et leurs alliés pour avoir déclenché la guerre contre l'Iraq, qui est clairement illégale sur le plan du droit international; demande le retrait immédiat et sans condition des troupes d'occupation ainsi que le respect de la souveraineté irakienne et de son intégrité territoriale;
 - 3. Calls on Member States to fulfil their obligations under international and Community law to give Iraqis in Member States the opportunity to lodge asylum application and have it processed within minimum delay, respecting procedural safeguards and grant refugee status or subsidiary protection to those who have a well founded fear of persecution or serious harm;
 - 4. Encourages Member States to grant Iraqis who do not qualify for a protection status but cannot be returned, at least a temporary legal status and to ensure adequate

conditions and basic rights such as housing and financial support, health care and education for people whose claims for asylum are rejected, but who cannot return and to grant them permission to work as long as return to Iraq is not possible and to adopt a generous approach to family reunification of Iraqis;

5. Urges the Member States and the international community to contribute in a significant manner to the resettlement of Iraqi refugees and stateless persons as well as the Palestinian refugees currently in Iraq or having fled from Iraq and now stranded in the region, giving priority to the most vulnerable cases in accordance with UNHCR guidelines on resettlement of Iraqi refugees;
6. Supports the UNHCR recommendation to favourably consider Iraqi asylum seekers from Southern and Central Iraq as refugees under the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and where they are not recognized as refugees to grant them a complementary form of protection unless the individual comes within the exclusion criteria in the 1951 Convention;
7. Recognises the efforts made by non-border countries of the region such as Egypt to assist Iraqi refugees; asks these countries to pursue their efforts in favour of the Iraqi refugees by keeping their borders open and improving conditions for them, respecting their fundamental rights and ensuring their access to basic services such as health and education with the support of the international community;
8. Deplores that neighbouring states kept their borders closed, with rare and limited exceptions, to Palestinians fleeing violence and threats against them in Iraq, condemns the call of the Iraqi Minister of Displacement and Migration to expel all Palestinians from Iraq; condemns Iraqi government's decision to impose onerous registration requirements to Palestinians making it difficult for them to stay legally in Iraq; regrets that the Iraqi authorities, which are expressing their hostility towards the Palestinians because of their alleged support to the insurgency, and the multinational force did not act to ensure the protection of the Palestinians leading thousands of them to flee the capital;
9. Calls on the Commission to urgently explore further possibilities to bring humanitarian support to the IDPs in Iraq, exercising appropriate flexibility in interpreting the relevant rules, and to assist the neighbouring countries in their efforts to host the refugee population;
10. Asks the Commission and the Member States to support the UNHCR's protection efforts focused at providing protection from 'refoulement', non-detention and non-penalisation for illegal entry and access to education, adequate housing, basic health care facilities and other basic services;
11. Expresses its conviction that, in order to improve the security situation and to allow refugees to return safely to their homes, what is primarily required is withdrawal of the foreign troops and the solution of political questions, in particular to give real and comprehensive sovereignty back to the Iraqis;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the governments and parliaments of Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey and Palestine.