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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 Frank Vanhecke, Philip Claeys and Koenraad Dillen

on behalf of the ITS Group

on human rights violations in Pakistan

European Parliament resolution on human rights violations in Pakistan

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 3 November 2007 the military leader of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf, suspended Pakistan's Constitution and declared a state of emergency in response to the ruling by the Supreme Court that it would be unconstitutional for him to be re-elected President because he is at the same time supreme commander of the army,
- B. whereas various high-ranking judges have been removed from office and placed under house arrest,
- C. whereas General Pervez Musharraf has appointed new judges to the Supreme Court to approve the state of emergency declared in the Provisional Constitutional Order,
- D. whereas, as a result of the declaration of the state of emergency, hundreds of lawyers, judges, journalists and other opponents of the regime have already been arrested,
- E. whereas various reports indicate that some of these people who have been arrested have been and are being tortured by the Pakistani military security services,
- F. whereas, due to the declaration of the state of emergency, independent television and radio channels are no longer permitted to broadcast within Pakistan's territory and whereas new legislation has been adopted restricting freedom of the press,
- G. whereas, since the declaration of the state of emergency, hundreds of members of the Liberal Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have been arrested,
- H. whereas, as a consequence of the deployment of military force by General Musharraf against opponents of the military regime, armed Islamic fundamentalists are increasingly filling the power vacuum which has arisen in various parts of the country and reinforcing their stranglehold on the North-west of Pakistan,
- I. whereas the total lack of public support for Musharraf's military regime is now beginning to have repercussions on the army itself, which is becoming increasingly demoralised, is defecting en masse to the Islamic fundamentalists in some places and thus is no longer a reliable factor in the struggle against the Taliban and Islamic fundamentalism in general,
 1. Condemns the declaration of the state of emergency, and calls for the constitutional order to be restored and for fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression, freedom of the press and the right to a fair and impartial trial to be unconditionally restored;
 2. Calls for all unlawfully arrested persons to be released;

3. Points out that removing judges from office and placing them under house arrest violates the UN Declaration on the Independence of the Judiciary and calls for them to be released immediately and restored to office;
4. Calls on General Musharraf to resign immediately as supreme commander of the army, thus respecting the Constitution;
5. Calls on General Musharraf to organise elections in January 2008 and ensure that the elections are secret, free and fair;
6. Is very concerned about the power vacuum which has arisen, about the growing 'Talibanisation' of the North-west of Pakistan and other areas and about the rapidly declining reliability of the Pakistan army in the struggle against Islamic fundamentalism;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government of the Republic of Pakistan.