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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 Pasqualina Napoletano, Hannes Swoboda, Christa Prets, Paulo Casaca

on behalf of the PSE Group

on women's rights situation in Iran

**European Parliament resolution on women's rights situation in Iran**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran, notably those concerning human rights and in particular the resolutions adopted on 25 October, 2007, and on 31 January, 2008,
  - having regard to EU Presidency statement of 23 October, 2007 (press 246) on freedom of expression in Islamic republic of Iran,
  - having regard to the Foreign Affairs Committee report (A6-0153/2008) on the EU's Annual Report on Human Rights in the World and the EU's policy on the matter,
  - having regard to UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions and in particular to UNGA resolution 62/168 on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted on 18 December 2007,
  - having regard to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights the International Convention on the Elimination off all Forms of racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to all of which Iran is a party,
  - having regard to the EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue, the EU Presidency statement of 20 December 2005 on the EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue,
  - having regard to the meeting and the report of the 2nd EP-Iran inter-parliamentary meeting held in Tehran on 7-9 December 2007,
  - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the exercise of civil rights and political freedoms has deteriorated in the last two years, notably since the presidential elections of June 2005, despite the fact that Iran has undertaken to respect and protect human rights, fundamental freedoms and to promote universal values under the various international instruments in this field,
- B. whereas women rights defenders in Iran, including the “One Million Signatures Campaign” activists, whose basic objectives are to defend civil and social rights and to change the discriminatory laws against women by publishing their demands for gender equality, have been suppressed and intimidated by the Iranian authorities,
- C. whereas more than a hundred women's rights activists have been arrested, interrogated, or sentenced in the past two years and that the Government has raised over € 1 million by imprisoning the activists and releasing them on high bail,

- D. whereas Mrs Khadijeh Moghaddam, a pioneer in environment protection in Iran and a member of the Mother's committee of the "One Million Signatures Campaign", was subjected to arbitrary arrest on 8 April 2008 and freed on 16 April 2008, after bail of \$110,000 was paid,
- E. whereas the campaign was launched after the June 2006 demonstration for equal rights for women inheritance, divorce and child custody, at which nearly 70 protesters were arrested amid allegations of police brutality, whereas the Iranian authorities have tried to stop the spread of the "One Million Signatures Campaign" since its inception in September 2006 by restricting the movement of activists and intimidated them by breaking into their houses and private space,
- F. whereas Iran had committed itself to "uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights" by presenting its candidacy to the Human Rights Council 2006 election and had insisted in this regard on the fact that the country had "continuously put great efforts into safeguarding the status and inherent dignity of the human person as well as the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms",
- G. whereas a draft bill on "family protection" was recently submitted in the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) allegedly to protect women's rights but in reality it allows polygamy, temporary marriage, unilateral right for men to arbitrary divorce and give child custody to the men, whereas Iran is still not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,
1. Expresses its deep concern over the deterioration of human rights situation in Iran in recent years and the arbitrary arrest and the ongoing harsh repression by the Iranian authorities against human rights defenders, in particular women's rights activists involved in the "One Million Signatures Campaign";
  2. Appeals to the Iranian authorities to honour their obligations in accordance with international human rights standards and instruments ratified by Iran, by promoting universal values and granting all persons the right to exercise their civil rights and political freedoms and recalls its resolutions of 25 October 2007 and 31 January 2008 on the issue;
  3. Welcomes the release of Mrs Khadijeh Moghaddam and calls on the Iranian authorities to guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of all activists engaged in the "One Million Signatures Campaign" and to release immediately and unconditionally all arbitrarily detained women as their detention is obviously aimed solely at sanctioning their activities in favour of women's human rights;
  4. Supports the human rights defenders and activists engaged in the "One Million Signatures Campaign, who have peacefully attempted to change Iranian laws that discriminate against women;

5. Calls on the Iranian authorities to drop all arbitrary charges against all women's rights defenders involved in the "One Million Signatures Campaign" and urges the Iranian authorities to put an end to all acts of harassment, including at the judicial level, against Iranian human and women's rights defenders;
6. Calls on Iran to ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with international and regional human rights instruments ratified by Iran;
7. Reminds the Government of Iran of its obligations, as a signatory to the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to safeguard fundamental human rights, notably the freedom of opinion;
8. Calls on the Presidency of the Council and the Member States' diplomatic representatives in Iran urgently to undertake concerted action with regard to the abovementioned concerns, in particular striving for the immediate release of human rights defenders;
9. Calls on the Council and the Commission to closely monitor developments in Iran and also to raise concrete cases of human and women rights abuses as the basic condition for progress in EU-Iran economic and trade relations;
10. Calls on the Commission, in close cooperation with the European Parliament, to make effective use of the new Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights in order to promote democracy and respect for human rights in Iran by supporting the different components of civil society;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the member states, the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Head of the State Supreme Court of Iran and the Government and Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran.