

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

17.6.2008

B6-0330/2008

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 Francis Wurtz

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the death penalty against juvenile offenders in Iran

European Parliament resolution on the death penalty against juvenile offenders in Iran

The European Parliament,

- recalling its previous resolutions on the human rights situation in Iran;
 - having regard to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in particular Articles 3 and 5 thereof;
 - having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure;
- A) whereas, as a state party to both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Iran has undertaken not to execute people convicted of crimes committed when they were under the age of 18;
- B) Whereas, since 1990 Iran has executed at least 30 juvenile offenders, seven of them in 2007 and two in 2008, and whereas at least four other juvenile offenders, Mr. Behnoud Shojaee, Mr. Mohammad Fadaee, Mr. Saeed Jazee, and Mr. Behnam Zaare are at imminent risk of execution in Iran;
- C) Whereas at least 85 other juvenile offenders, possibly many more, are now on death row in Iran;
- D) Whereas to juvenile offender Behnoud Shojaee was granted a one-month reprieve on 10 June, the day before he was scheduled for execution, to allow time for his family to negotiate financial compensation with the family of the boy he was convicted of stabbing to death, in exchange for a pardon;
- 1) Is convinced that there can be absolutely no justification for the use of the death penalty by the Iranian authorities in the case of juvenile offenders, which explicitly runs counter to the legally binding provisions of international law;
 - 2) Urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately halt the use of the death penalty, especially in the case of juvenile offenders, relating to crimes committed before the age of 18, and calls upon the Iranian authorities to introduce a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in all instances;
 - 3) Requests the Islamic Republic of Iran to stay the executions of Mr. Behnoud Shojaee, Mr. Mohammad Fadaee, Mr. Saeed Jazee, and Mr. Behnam Zaare, in strict compliance with its international human rights obligations;
 - 4) Strongly condemns the execution of 17 year-old Mohammad Hassanzadeh on 10 June 2008 in Sanandaj,
 - 5) welcomes the stay of execution of Behnoud Shojaee and calls on the authorities to

commute his death sentence, as he is facing execution for a crime committed when he was under 18;

5) Calls on the Iranian authorities to pass, as a matter of urgency, legislation abolishing the death penalty for all offences committed by those under 18, in accordance with Iran's international obligations;

6) Calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to bring its domestic legislation and practice into line with the international human rights conventions which Iran has freely entered into and ratified, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, these two international human rights mechanisms clearly prohibiting the execution of minors or people who have been convicted of crimes committed when they were minors;

7) Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Iranian President, Government and Parliament;