

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

21.10.2008

B6-0567/2008

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 Jens Holm

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on Burma/Myanmar

European Parliament resolution on Burma/Myanmar

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Burma/Myanmar
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas 24 October 2008 marks the 13th anniversary of the unjust incarceration as a political prisoner of the General Secretary of the National League for Democracy, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi;
- B. whereas an additional 2,120 individuals continue to face imprisonment in atrocious conditions merely for expressing the wish to bring democracy to Burma/Myanmar; and whereas on 3rd October 2008 Navanethem Pillay, newly created UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, formally appealed to the Burma/Myanmar military authorities to release all political prisoners;
- C. whereas on the anniversary of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's captivity leaders of Asian and European countries will convene the ASEM Heads of State Summit meeting in China;
- D. whereas the Secretary-General of the United Nations has announced that he may cancel a visit to Burma/Myanmar, planned for December 2008, if there are no democratic improvement in the country;
- E. whereas the United Nations stated that the Burmese/Myanmar military authorities were fraudulently seizing a percentage of humanitarian aid remitted to Burma/Myanmar through falsely weighted currency exchange rates;
1. Condemns the continued detention under house arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and of the 2,120 additional individuals imprisoned for their passive political views, and insists upon their immediate release;
 2. Asks the ASEM states to jointly appeal to the Burmese/Myanmar military authorities to release all political prisoners and attend to their humanitarian responsibilities;
 3. Calls on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to press ahead with a second visit to Burma/Myanmar in December irrespective of prevailing conditions in order to make an urgent personal appeal for the release of all political prisoners and the full inclusion of the National League for Democracy in preparations for the 2010 elections;
 4. Calls on the European Commission to explain what action it intends to take with respect to the United Nations' admission that a percentage of all humanitarian aid remitted to Burma/Myanmar is falling victim to state-sponsored exchange rate abuse;

5. Calls on the European Commission to present a full report on the extent of the humanitarian assistance still required in the areas afflicted by the aftermath of the Cyclone Nargis;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the EU Special Envoy for Burma/Myanmar, the Burmese/Myanmar State Peace and Development Council, the governments of the ASEAN and ASEM member states.