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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 Marios Matsakis, Marco Cappato, Marco Pannella

on behalf of the ALDE Group

on the death penalty in Nigeria

European Parliament resolution on the death penalty in Nigeria

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Nigeria,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
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- A. whereas hundreds of people on death row in Nigeria did not have a fair trial and may therefore be innocent,
 - B. whereas the Nigerian Government has begun a national debate on whether or not the death penalty should be abolished,
 - C. whereas the conditions in most of Nigeria's 227 prisons are dehumanising,
 - D. whereas more than half the country's 40,000 prison inmates have not been tried or sentenced,
 - E. whereas chronic but preventable diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, influenza and pneumonia are also present in the prisons,
 - F. whereas Nigeria has not officially reported any executions since 2002,
 - G. whereas on 1 October 2008, on the 47th anniversary of Nigeria's independence, four state governors announced pardons and commuting of sentences for 57 death row prisoners,
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1. Calls on the Federal Government of Nigeria to abolish the death penalty;
 2. Stresses that, pending abolition, the government should declare an immediate moratorium on all executions as provided by UN General Assembly resolution 62/149 and commute without delay all death sentences to terms of imprisonment;
 3. Calls on EU and other relevant authorities to closely monitor the situation of pending death penalties and the overall evolution of the criminal justice system in Nigeria;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Member States, the Secretary General of the UN; the General Secretary of the African Union and the government of Nigeria.

