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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 Cristiana Muscardini, Roberta Angelilli, Adam Bielan

on behalf of the UEN Group

on detention of journalist Roxana Saberi

European Parliament resolution on detention of journalist Roxana Saberi

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations and in particular Resolution 62/168 of 18 December 2007, to the report of October 2008 released by UN-Secretary General and the resolution by UN-General Assembly on the critical situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- having regard to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to all of which Iran is a party;
- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran, notably those concerning human rights of 25 October 2007, 31 January 2008 and 24 April 2008;
- having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of procedures,

A. whereas the general human rights situation in Iran has continued to deteriorate since 2005 despite the fact that Iran has undertaken to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms under the various international instruments in this field;

B. whereas the intimidation and violent repression against political opponents, human rights defenders, journalists, web bloggers, teachers, intellectuals, women, students, trade unionists, and persons belonging to religious, ethnic, linguistic or other minorities has increased;

C. whereas the EU's relations with Iran in recent years have been based on a threefold approach characterised by negotiations on a Trade and Cooperation Agreement, political dialogue and a human rights dialogue, and whereas these three aspects cannot be separated;

1. strongly condemns the sentencing of Iranian-American journalist Roxana Saberi to 8 years in prison for espionage;
2. expresses its deep concern over Saberi's safety and health as a consequence of her being on hunger strike
3. protests vehemently over the threats against Saberi, and considers the Iranian authorities responsible for her safety ;
4. calls on the Iranian Authorities to take all necessary measures to prevent any harm to Roxana Saberi and to ensure she receives a fair trial;
5. expresses deep concern over the deterioration of the human rights situation in Iran; appeals

to the Iranian Authorities to honour their obligations, in accordance with international human rights standards and instruments ratified by Iran, and to comply with the International Covenant on human rights and Civil and political Rights;

6. condemns the repression against political opponents, human rights defenders and activists of civil society movements; calls on the Iranian authorities to put an end to the harsh repression and to release all those who have been imprisoned for the peaceful expression of their convictions;

7. underlines that the possible future conclusion of a cooperation and Trade Agreement between Iran and the EU depends on a substantial improvement in Iran's human rights situation;

8. calls on the Council and the Commission to monitor closely the human rights situation in Iran, and to submit to Parliament a comprehensive report on the matter, as the basic condition for progress in EU-Iran economic and trade relations;

9. Instruct its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary General, the UN Security Council, the UN Human Rights Council, the Head of Judiciary of Iran and the Government and Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran.