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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 122 of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Thailand

Véronique De Keyser, Marc Tarabella
on behalf of the S&D Group

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Thailand

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Thailand,
- having regard to the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials,
- having regard to the statement by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton on the political situation in Thailand on 13 April 2010 and the Declaration on World Press Freedom Day on 3 May 2010,
- having regard to Rule 122 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas while peaceful demonstrations are a hallmark of a democratic society and the recent escalation of violence in Thailand between the government's security forces and demonstrators poses a serious threat to democracy and the rule of law,

B. whereas the overall political and economic impact of this crisis in Thailand is proving to be devastating for the citizens of the country, which could ultimately have an impact on the stability of the neighbouring countries,

C. whereas the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon expressed concern over the violence and appealed to both the protestors and the Thai authorities to do all within their power to avoid further violence and loss of life, whereas Vietnam, chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, expressed concern at the worsening situation in Thailand and called on all sides to avoid violence and to seek reconciliation,

D. whereas Thailand's Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva stressed the government's firm intention to bring back peace and normalcy to the Thai society and anti-government protest leaders expressed their intention to enter into negotiations with the government to end a deadly crisis if troops were immediately withdrawn from Bangkok's streets,

E. whereas the European Union is deeply concerned by the threats that exist towards media freedom and considers the killing, intimidation and imprisonment of journalists as a serious infringement of media freedom and reaffirms the freedom of expression as a Fundamental Right, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

1. Encourages the Thai Government to ensure public safety, maintain law and order and bring the situation back to normal as quick as possible, emphasising that, in doing so, the Government remains committed to transparency, respect for human rights and safety of the public, while exercising utmost care;

2. Strongly condemns the repeatedly violent clashes between the armed forces and protestors resulting in several injured and dead persons and calls on the authorities and military forces to

abolish the 'Live Fire Zones' immediately;

3. Recalls that the UN's Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials provide that authorities shall, as far as possible, apply non-violent means before resorting to the use of force and firearms and whenever the lawful use of force and firearms is unavoidable, the authorities must use restraint and act in proportion to the seriousness of the offense;
4. Expresses deep concern over the broad-based immunity provision in the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in a State of Emergency; believes that the government's decision to extend Thailand's Internal Security Act provoked further escalation on tension and therefore appeals to repeal this Act immediately;
5. Is concerned about the government's attempt to ban free access and balanced coverage and use of state television, radios, printed papers and websites in Thailand; recalls that Thailand is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and therefore should respect the fundamental freedom of speech;
6. Strongly condemns Thailand's military intention to jeopardize the freedom of speech by targeting journalists as "terrorists" and shows deep concern about the safety of journalists following the death and injured journalists whom were impartially reporting the events in Thailand;
7. Demands that there be a prompt, effective and impartial investigation into the politically motivated violence and abuses by all sides and to bring those responsible of committing crimes to justice;
8. Demands that the Government of Thailand release the demonstrators who have been arrested without proof of breach of law and appeals to the Thai court to revoke further arrest warrants to prevent further escalation of violence;
9. Regrets that the last four years of ongoing political friction has hurt Thailand's political and economic stability, resulting in fuelling costs of offshore borrowing and shaking investors' confidence in the country; is deeply concerned that international economists forecast a decrease in economic growth this year due to the impact on tourism, as well as from the loss of consumer confidence as a result of the political instability which impacts on the standard of living of the Thai people;
10. Welcomes the agreement of the four former prime ministers, Anand Panyarachun, Banharn Silapa-acha, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh and Chuan Leekpai to have a consultative meeting together, as well as with religious leaders and intellectuals, as proposed by the National Human Rights Commission, to find and propose a solution to end this crisis;
11. Urges the anti-government protestors to hold their demonstrations in line with the provisions of the Constitution of Thailand without jeopardising the security of Thai citizens and tourists; demands that the protestors to leave commercial and touristic areas as well as other public institutions immediately to avoid further trade losses amounting to millions of bath a day;

12. Welcomes the decision of the Government to establish a committee, comprising forensic experts and academic institutions, to investigate deaths in the 10 April 2010 incident and calls on the government to extend these investigations to the recent death cases; endorses the initiative to launch a centre to aid injured people and relatives of those killed in clashes between state officers and supporters of the anti-government United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security;

13. Appeals to the Electoral Commission of Thailand to review the Electoral Code in line with international electoral standards to ensure a democratic, stable and transparent government in future elections and to prevent repeating the same drama in the event of a government's dissolution or resignation;

14. Welcomes the appeal made by Thailand's Foreign Minister, Kasit Piromya, to Burma's military leaders to open its first elections in two decades to all political opponents and ethnic minorities; recalls that Thailand should lead by example to its neighbouring countries by allowing national reconciliation and the inclusiveness of the whole political forces in these difficult times;

15. Encourages the Government of Thailand to establish a mechanism to reform Thailand as part of the five-point road map to national reconciliation to promote community strength, advocate decentralisation and deal with inequality and social justice; calls on the Prime Minister to demonstrate concretely his intention to end these hostilities and to implement this roadmap by urging the military to withdraw from the streets and on the protestors to demonstrate sincerity towards reconciliation by ending immediately street protests;

16. Regrets that the Prime Minister refused to seek UN intervention to find a peaceful solution to this crisis; believes that, while Thailand is a sovereign country, the UN Secretary General can mediate talks between the government and protestors to bring peace and order in society for the benefit of all;

17. Notes that many organisations had expressed their concern and wanted to help, in particular to bring out women and children caught up in the demonstrations; encourages the government not to hinder this rightful intention and to facilitate their efforts in every way, especially after the recent death of an innocent youngster;

18. Understands that, while the monarchy in Thailand has limited constitutional powers, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej has supreme moral authority and therefore appeals to His Majesty to encourage his people to end these hostilities, which proved to be influential and successful in past outbreaks in Thailand;

19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments of the Member States, the government of Thailand, the governments of the ASEAN nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.