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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 Egypt

**Willy Meyer, Jacky Hénin, Patrick Le Hyaric, Sabine Lösing, Marie-Christine Vergiat**

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**European Parliament resolution on Egypt**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Egypt,
  - having regard to the EU-Egypt Action Plan on 2007, and the EU-Egypt Association agreement, which entered into force on 1st June 2004,
  - having regard to its previous resolution on the European Neighbourhood Policy and on the Union for the Mediterranean,
  - having regard to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Egypt in 1982,
  - having regard to Rule 122 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas it is now a year that Hosni Mubarak stepped down after the demonstrations in Tahrir Square and the uprisings in all Egypt asking for fundamental reforms in their country's political, economic and social system, for the end to the corrupt regime, for true democracy, respect of human rights and better living conditions;
- B. whereas demonstrators have continued their protests against those military rulers for months; whereas people have gone down to the streets to protest any kind of dictatorship, even by the army or by political groups or by security forces;
- C. whereas at least 74 people were killed in the riot and in the clashes that followed a football match on 1st February in the city of Port Said;
- D. whereas thousands of protesters demonstrated outside the defence ministry on Friday 10th February, and on Saturday 11th February there has been a general strike to mark the first anniversary of President Hosni Mubarak's overthrow and to pressure the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) to hand power to civilians;
- E. whereas demonstrators are demanding the military's immediate departure from power;
- F. whereas the country is still under martial law; whereas one year after Egypt's '25 January Revolution' Egypt's military courts violate basic human rights, like the right to a fair trial and the right to appeal to a higher tribunal; whereas since the uprising, military forces have tried 12,000 Egyptians and convicted an estimated 8,000 ordinary Egyptians for crimes like 'thuggery' or 'breaking curfew', with sentences ranging from several months' imprisonment to the death penalty;
- G. whereas in the name of security and the need to increase economic performance, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces introduced new legislation (Law 34 of 2011) criminalizing strikes and any other form of protest deemed to obstruct work and imposing

prison sentences and heavy fines on those convicted;

- H. whereas the SCAF also re-enacted and expanded the applications of the Emergency Law (Law 162 of 1958) to cover offences such ‘assault on freedom to work’, further cracking down on the right to strike, extending it to cases of blocking roads, and including catch-all accusations such as ‘broadcasting false rumors’, which have been extensively deployed to arrest and harass bloggers and journalists;
- I. whereas in the parliamentary elections in January 2012 the Islamist group the Muslim Brotherhood won nearly half of the seats; whereas Presidential elections are supposed to take place in June;
1. Supports the Egyptian people demands for early presidential elections and the speedy transfer of power to civilians through a specific timetable, so as to hand over power to a civilian president elected before drafting the constitution, as the constitution should not be written under military rule to avoid impunity for the crimes committed during its rule;
  2. Calls for an independent and impartial committee of inquiry to be set up to investigate committed breaches of human rights during the time of Mubarak’s regime and also by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, including the cases of extrajudicial execution and arbitrary arrest, identify those responsible and where appropriate bring them to justice, with compensation for the victims and their families;
  3. Insists that the future of Egypt must firmly rest in the hands of the Egyptian people, without any external interference;
  4. Reaffirms its support to the struggle of the Egyptian working people and the demonstrators for better living conditions, for the end of corruption and for attaining true democracy;
  5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, the African Union and the Government and Parliament of Egypt.