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12.6.2012

B7-0318/2012

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a 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 of ethnic minorities in Iran  
(2012/2682(RSP))

**Marietje Schaake, Kristiina Ojuland, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Robert Rochefort, Alexander Alvaro, Edward McMillan-Scott, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Marielle de Sarnez, Sarah Ludford, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Gesine Meissner, Jelko Kacin, Sonia Alfano**  
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**B7-0318/2012**

**European Parliament resolution on the situation of ethnic minorities in Iran  
(2012/2682(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran, in particular those of 7 September 2010, 20 January 2011 and November 2011,
  - having regard to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,
  - having regard to the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran issued the 20th of March 2012,
  - having regard to the Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the use of the death penalty in Iran, issued the 30th of May 2012,
  - having regard to the Reports of Ahmed Shaheed, U.N. Special Rapporteur charged with examining human rights conditions in Iran, presented in March 2012,
  - having regard to having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and cultural rights to which Iran is a party;
  - having regard to Rule 122(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas religious and ethnic minorities, women, and other groups are experiencing increasing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, economic marginalization, political repression and denial of even the most basic of cultural rights;
  - B. whereas serious violations of the rights of Kurds, the Azerbaijani, the Balochis, as well as violations against unrecognized religious communities such as the Bahá'í, are increasing;
  - C. whereas discrimination against ethnic minorities has a considerable impact in the field of education, as schools in minority regions are often very poor, and dropout and illiteracy rates in these regions are many times higher than the national average, which leads to the underrepresentation of national and ethnic minorities in high-ranking government positions;
  - D. whereas all peaceful demonstrations demanding rights and protection of ethnic minorities in the region have been violently suppressed;

- E. whereas activists as well as students, journalists, and writers risk violations ranging from arbitrary arrest to death at the hands of Iranian security forces;
  - F. whereas six members of Iran's Ahwazi Arab minority were detained without charge for almost a year and were arrested in connection with their activities on behalf of Iran's Ahwazi Arab minority;
  - G. whereas Iran has pledged to the international community that it will abide by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
1. Calls on the Iranian Government to recognise the diversity of its population and address the growing support base for human and minority rights in the country;
  2. Calls upon the authorities to respect internationally recognised legal safeguards with regard to persons belonging to religious minorities, officially recognised or otherwise;
  3. Strongly condemns the current lack of respect for minority rights and demands that minorities be allowed to exercise all rights granted by the Iranian Constitution and international law;
  4. Calls upon the authorities to eliminate all forms of discrimination based on religious or ethnic grounds or against persons belonging to minorities, such as Kurds, Azeris, Arabs and Baluchis;
  5. Urges the authorities to allow freedom of association and religion, and to free all activists who are currently imprisoned for their peaceful advocacy of minority rights;
  6. 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 Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Human Rights Council, the President of the Iranian Supreme Court and the Government and Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran.