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Plenary sitting

11.6.2013

B7-0300/2013

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 Rohingya Muslims
(2013/2669(RSP))

Marietje Schaake, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Leonidas Donskis, Phil Bennion, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Marielle de Sarnez, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Sarah Ludford, Louis Michel, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Edward McMillan-Scott, Kristiina Ojuland, Robert Rochefort, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells,
on behalf of the ALDE Group

B7-0300/2013

**European Parliament resolution on the situation of Rohingya Muslims
(2013/2669(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 1966,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on Burma/Myanmar, in particular those of 20 April 2012, 13 September 2012 and 22 November 2012,
- having regard to the EU Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 22 April 2013 on Burma-Myanmar,
- having regard to its resolution on reinstatement of Myanmar/Burma's access to generalised tariff preferences of 23 May 2013,
- having regard to Human Rights Watch report ‘All you can do is pray’ of May 2013,
- having regard to the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto,
- having regard to the European Union's set of restrictive measures, as set out in Council Decision 2010/232/CFSP of 26 April 2010 and as most recently amended by Council Regulation (EU) No 1083/2011 of 27 October 2011,
- having regard to the recent statements of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation of Burma/Myanmar, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana,
- having regard to the Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton of 23 March 2013 on the violent clashes in the town of Meiktila town in Burma/Myanmar,
- having regard to the statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton of 27 November 2012 on the 2012 UNGA resolution on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,
- having regard to the Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton of 1 June 2013 on the agreement concluded between the Government of Myanmar/Burma and the Kachin Independence Organisation,
- having regard to the statement of EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva of 9 August 2012 on the situation of Rohingya Muslims,

– having regard to the statement by Aun San Suu Kyi of 27 May 2013 about the ‘two-child policy’ for Rohingya Muslims,

– having regard to the decision taken at the ASEAN Summit in November 2011 to confer the ASEAN Presidency on Burma/Myanmar in 2014,

– having regard to Rule 122(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

- A. Whereas the religious violence started in Arakan State and , more recently, has started to spread throughout the country, with attacks reported in the central town of Meiktila and the Shan State in the North-East of the country;
- B. Whereas since 2011 over 125,000 Rohingya Muslims have been left internally displaced and many others have sought refuge outside the country, in Thailand and Bangladesh amongst others;
- C. Whereas discrimination and violence against the Rohingya minority persists;
- D. Whereas the violence has resulted in the burning of property, destruction of places of worship and a rising death toll with hundreds of Rohingya estimated to have died;
- E. Whereas many who reside in camps across Arakan State, have been denied access to humanitarian aid and have been unable to return home because of continued violence, the destruction of their homes or because they are prevented from leaving the camp by the security forces on guard;
- F. Whereas conditions in the refugee camps within Burma/Myanmar are dire;
- G. Whereas the Government of Burma/Myanmar has allowed only limited and inadequate humanitarian access to Rohingya populations at risk;
- H. Whereas those who have fled Burma sometimes do so in inadequate and overcrowded boats which leads to an increased chance of accidents or capsizing and whereas hundreds are already feared dead at sea;
- I. whereas the crisis has the potential to undermine the entire reform process in Burma/Myanmar;
- J. whereas the international community has urged the Burmese Government to review its 1982 Citizenship Law to ensure that the Rohingya are no longer stateless and the roots of longstanding discrimination against the Rohingya population are dealt with;
- K. Whereas the Government of Burma/Myanmar has recently announced that it will reinstate a two-child policy, which had lapsed, for Rohingya in Buthidaung and Mawdaw townships in North Arakan State, arguing that the policy would decrease tensions;
- L. Whereas the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma/Myanmar has stated

that Burmese authorities have facilitated and supported the recent violations;

- M. Whereas international human rights organizations have uncovered evidence of four mass-grave sites in Arakan State;
 - N. Whereas the Human Rights Watch report ‘all you can do is pray’ speaks of ‘crimes against humanity’ and ‘ethnic cleansing’;
 - O. Whereas freedom of the press and media, both online and offline, plays a crucial role in uncovering and documenting human rights abuses and holding governments accountable;
 - P. Whereas under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution;
1. Condemns the grave violations of human rights and the violence perpetrated against Rohingya Muslims in Burma/Myanmar;
 2. Calls on all sides to refrain from the use of violence;
 3. Calls on the government to put an immediate stop to human rights abuses and bring the perpetrators of the violent clashes and other related abuses to justice;
 4. Stresses the need for an urgent action plan by the Government of Burma/Myanmar to deal with humanitarian risks for all displaced people in the Arakan State;
 5. Urges the Government of Burma/Myanmar to ensure that its security forces do everything possible to protect Rohingya Muslims from violent actions aimed towards them by others and are in no way complicit in or responsible for the violence,
 6. Expresses its deep concerns at allegations that members of the Burmese security forces participated in the violence and calls for independent investigations into these allegations;
 7. Urges the government to continue to pursue and implement durable solutions to the underlying causes of the tensions that include addressing the status of the Rohingya;
 8. Welcomes President U Thein Sein promise that all perpetrators of violence will be prosecuted, and his commitment to a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith society;
 9. Calls on the government to end discriminatory practices against Rohingya and to amend the 1982 citizenship law to bring it into line with international human rights standards and its obligations under Article 7 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, with a view to granting citizens’ rights to the Rohingya and other stateless minorities;
 10. Urges the Burmese government to immediately revoke the regulation establishing a two-child limit for ethnic Rohingya, and other coercive or discriminatory policies, rules, regulations or laws regarding population;

11. Calls on Burmese authorities to grant unfettered access for international humanitarian agencies to provide medical and other services to all persons in need in Arakan State, with special focus on needs of internally displaced persons and other populations with restricted freedom of movement;
12. Calls on the Government of Thailand to immediately end the inhumane detention of at least 1700 Rohingya asylum seekers and provide them with access to UN Refugee Agencies; regrets that the Government of Thailand has so far failed to permit the UNHCR to conduct refugee status determination screenings of these Rohingya;
13. Calls on the Governments of Thailand, Malaysia, and Bangladesh to open borders to Rohingya asylum seekers and provide them with at least temporary protection;
14. Recalls that the European Union has recently reinstalled its Generalised System of Preference (GSP) vis-à-vis Burma, reiterates the conditionality of these preferences on respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights; urges the European Commission to closely monitor the progress by the Burmese authorities in respecting these conditions, will closely follow the human rights situation in Burma and act accordingly if necessary;
15. Calls on the Vice-President/High Representative of the EU to address this issue at the highest possible political level in Burma/Myanmar,
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Governments and Parliaments of Burma/Myanmar and of Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand, the EU High Representative, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the UN Special Representative for Human Rights in Myanmar, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the UN Human Rights Council.