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B7-0303/20013

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))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

B7-0303/20013

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Burma/Myanmar, in particular those of 22 November 2012 and of 13 September 2012,
 - having regard to the final report of the Delegation to Burma/Myanmar from 3 to 5 April 2013 of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the EU Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 23 April 2012 on Burma/Myanmar,
 - having regard to the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burma/Myanmar of 6 March 2013,
 - having regard to the UN General Assembly Resolution 67/233 of 24 December 2012 on the Situation of human rights in Myanmar,
 - having regard to the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees of 1951 and the protocol thereto of 1967,
 - having regard to Articles 18 to 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948,
 - having regard to Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 1966,
 - having regard to Rule 122 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas since the new government of President U Thein Sein took office in March 2011, it has taken numerous steps to expand civil liberties in the country, the majority of political prisoners have been released, preliminary ceasefires have come into force with most armed ethnic groups, and many political dissidents have returned from exile in the hope of reconciliation; whereas President U Thein Sein visited the European institutions in March 2013;
- B. whereas, however, discrimination against the Rohingya minority has intensified;
- C. whereas during the inter-communal clashes in Rakhine State in 2012 hundreds of people were killed and thousands of Rohingya and other Muslims as well as a smaller number of Arakanese were displaced; whereas up to 140,000 people are estimated to remain displaced in Rakhine state;
- D. whereas the UNHCR has called on countries in the region to keep their borders open to people in need of international protection and to offer them temporary assistance and protection until durable solutions can be found;
- E. whereas on 23 April 2013, the Independent Commission of Inquiry, set up in August 2012 in order to investigate sectarian violence in the Rakhine state, issued a report containing recommendations to ease tensions, including doubling the number of security forces in the region and introducing family-planning education to stem the growth of the Muslim community; whereas, however, the report of the inquiry commission failed to hold anyone accountable for

the human rights abuses committed during last year's unrest;

- F. whereas the Human Rights Watch report "*All You Can Do is Pray: Crimes against Humanity and Ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims in Burma's Arakan State*" released on 29 April 2013, found that the abuses perpetrated against the Rohingyas last year, which allegedly involved state agencies, amounted to crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing;
- G. whereas in May 2013, local authorities in Myanmar's Rakhine state issued a directive placing a two-child limit on Rohingya couples in two predominantly Muslim townships;
- H. whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burma/Myanmar has said on 31 May 2013 that the Government of Burma/Myanmar must respond unambiguously to the revival of a local order limiting the number of children that Rohingya Muslims can have to two; whereas contraventions can result in fines and prison sentences under section 188 of the Myanmar Penal Code;
- I. whereas President U Thein Sein pledged in a speech on 6 May 2013 that his government would ensure the basic rights of Muslims in Rakhine State, enforce the rule of law and provide genuine and decisive leadership in resolving the conflict;
- J. whereas sectarian violence spread to a new region of Burma, with a mob burning shops in the Shan State town of Lashio on 28 May 2013 and on 4 June 2013, three Rohingya women were killed by the police forces in Parein village in a clash over housing for the displaced minority;
- 1. Recognises the significant steps taken by President U Thein Sein and other reformers in Burma/Myanmar in introducing democratic reforms over the past year; welcomes the announcement made by the President on 4 June 2013 that all political prisoners in Burma/Myanmar will be released;
- 2. Is concerned about the situation of the Rohingya minority in Rakhine State; urges the Government of Burma/Myanmar to take decisive action to bring about an improvement in their situation and to protect all their human rights, respecting their rights and duties
- 3. Stresses that the Government of Burma/Myanmar should continue to pursue and implement durable solutions to the underlying causes of the tensions that include addressing the status of the Rohingya; reiterates its call on the Government of Burma/Myanmar to end discriminatory practices against the Rohingya, and to set out an action plan to end the repression against the Rohingyas and other minorities;
- 4. Urges all parties and particularly the civil population and religious leaders to call for an end to inter-communal violence in Burma/Myanmar;
- 5. Welcomes the promise President U Thein Sein that all perpetrators of violence will be prosecuted, and his commitment to a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith society; calls on President U Thein Sein to undertake additional actions to enforce the rule of law and address the root causes of violence;
- 6. Reiterates its earlier calls for amendment or repeal of the 1982 Citizenship Law to ensure that the Rohingyas have equal access to Burmese citizenship; urges the Burmese authorities to take more vigorous action on the issues of citizens' rights, notably access to education, work permits and freedom of movement for the Rohingya minority;
- 7. Underlines the need for urgent action to deal with humanitarian risks for all displaced people in Burma/Myanmar; reiterates its call on the Government of Burma/Myanmar to provide UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs, as well as journalists and diplomats, with unhindered access to all areas of the country, including Rakhine State, and to give unrestricted and full access to humanitarian aid for all communities affected by conflict and sectarian violence; calls on the Burmese authorities to improve conditions in the Rohingya displacement camps

as a matter of urgency;

8. Urges all countries in the region to come to the aid of refugees from Burma/Myanmar and to support the Burmese government in finding equitable solutions for the underlying causes;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Government and Parliament of Burma/Myanmar, the Vice-President of the Commission/ High Representative of the Union for Foreign affairs and Security Policy, the Commission, the Council, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the UN Secretary-General, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burma/Myanmar, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the UN Human Rights Council.