



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Plenary sitting*

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4.2.2014

B7-0126/2014

## **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 in Thailand  
(2014/2551(RSP))

**Charles Tannock, Adam Bielan**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Thailand  
(2014/2551(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on Thailand, in particular of 20 May 2010 and 5 February 2009,
  - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 1966,
  - having regard to the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials of 1990,
  - having regards to the Universal Periodic Review of Thailand before the UN Human Rights Council and its recommendations, 5 October 2011,
  - having regard to the statement by the European Union Delegation of 2 December 2013,
  - having regard to the press briefing by the Spokesperson for the UN High commissioner for Human Rights of 26 December 2013,
  - having regard to the Statement of 13 December 2013 and of 23 January 2014 by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on recent events in Thailand,
  - having regard to Rule 122(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Thailand has been hit by major protests after three years of relative calm;
- B. whereas at least 10 people have been killed and over 550 injured in various clashes since the beginning of the protests;
- C. whereas an anti-government rally leader, Suthin Taratin, was shot dead in a clash with government supporters in eastern Bangkok which is believed to be a politically motivated attack;
- D. whereas demonstrations started in November after Thailand's lower house passed a controversial amnesty bill which could allow former leader Thaksin Shinawatra to return to the country without serving time in jail;

- E. whereas current Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is Thaksin Shinawatra's sister and many protesters believe the government is still controlled from exile by the former leader;
  - F. whereas Thaksin Shinawatra, removed from office in a military coup in 2006, remains popular with many rural voters while living in self-imposed exile overseas after being convicted of corruption;
  - G. whereas the protests - mainly urban and middle-class voters - are united by their opposition to Shinawatra Thaksin and led by Suthep Thaugsuban, a former Thai deputy prime minister;
  - H. whereas Suthep and his supporters accuse the Government of buying votes and creating a flawed democracy; they claim to want to wipe out the "political machine of Thaksin" and install an unelected "people's council" to reform Thailand's political system;
  - I. whereas the anti-government protest continue although the amnesty bill, proposed by Thaksin's sister Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's Pheu Thai Party, was eventually rejected by the Senate;
  - J. whereas Prime Minister Yingluck called a snap election for 2 February, the opposition Democratic Party boycotted the election while protesters disrupted electoral registration and blocked voting in parts of Bangkok and the south of the country;
  - K. whereas the Election Commission has called for the polls to be delayed because of the ongoing unrest, but the government pushed to go ahead;
  - L. whereas about six million voters were affected by the closures and security officials were deployed throughout the country;
  - M. whereas due to the opposition boycott and the protesters' disruption to registration it is not clear if the election will return enough MPs for a quorum in the parliament, yet officials say around 89% of polling stations operated normally;
  - N. whereas governments have been forced from power in the past by legal rulings and the election in 2006 was boycotted by the opposition and subsequently annulled;
  - O. whereas continuing protests could lead to the deterioration of the economy just like protests in 2008 and 2010 which especially hit the sectors of business and tourism;
1. Expresses its deep concern about the violent conflict between demonstrators and the government, which poses a threat to democracy in the country, and expresses its solidarity with the Thai people and all families of the victims of the last weeks;
  2. Urges all parties to engage immediately in a constructive dialogue with the aim of

delivering concrete results towards reconciliation and to solve the current crisis through peaceful and democratic means;

3. Calls upon all parties to abide by democratic principles, avoid escalation and resolve their differences through peaceful means;
4. Calls on both government supporters and anti-government demonstrators to refrain from any political violence and move forward within Thailand's democratic and constitutional framework;
5. Is concerned to see the occupation of public office buildings, television broadcasting stations, intimidation of the media and that charges of criminal defamation have been brought against two journalists based in Phuket;
6. Calls on protest leaders to increase efforts to constructively engage with the government;
7. Urges the military to maintain their neutrality and play a positive role to ensure a peaceful resolution of the ongoing crisis;
8. Stresses its will to support democracy in Thailand taking into consideration the excellent EU-Thai relations and the role of Thailand as a source of prosperity and stability in the region;
9. Urges the international community to put all efforts to stop the violence; urges the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to follow the political situation closely and coordinate actions with ASEAN in order to foster the dialogue and strengthen democracy in the country;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, the Member States, the Vice-President of the Commission/ High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Government of Thailand, the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.