



Plenary sitting

9.6.2015

B8-0546/2015

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 135 of the Rules of Procedure

on Paraguay: legal aspects related to the child pregnancy
(2015/2733(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on Paraguay: legal aspects related to the child pregnancy
(2015/2733(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948,
 - having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989,
 - having regard to the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women of 20 December 1993,
 - having regard to the Inter - regional Framework Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Mercosur of 1999,
 - having regard to the Paraguayan Penal Code (Law No. 1160/97) of 26 November 1997,
 - having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the EU relations with the Latin American countries are based on the common values and seek to develop ways of cooperation in the search for multilateral solutions to the common global challenges such as sexual violence and protection of women and girls;
- B. whereas early motherhood in the Latin American countries is highly correlated with cultural standards, educational level and social standing; whereas the big percentage of pregnant girls are minors;
- C. whereas according to Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the best interest of the child shall be considered in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies;
- D. whereas according to the World Health Organization data, the rate of sexual violence against women and children in the Latin American countries is higher than global average, notably in Argentina, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Paraguay; whereas up to 40% of women population in the region have been victims of sexual violence;
- E. whereas there is a big concern about the increasing number of killed women and children in Argentina; whereas on 11 April 2015 14 year old Argentinian pregnant girl was murdered by her 16 years old boyfriend and buried with the help of his parents;
- F. whereas according to the UNICEF, 9 out of 10 cases of sexual abuses of women in El Salvador concern aged 18 or under; whereas on 16 March 2015 a head teacher at a publicly run school in El Salvador sexually abused and raped female pupils;

- G. whereas the Police Unit for Women and Children received 1 862 reports of sexual violence in Nicaragua during the first six months of 2014; whereas aged 14 or under accounted for 1 048 of the victims and 80% of all victims were aged 17 or younger;
- H. whereas according to the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, almost 44% of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 in Bolivia have been victims of physical violence, at least 70% of women in Bolivia have suffered sexual violence or other abuse and only 0.5 % of men accused of sexual violence in front of a court of law have been found guilty of abuse;
- I. whereas on 21 April 2015 a 10 year old girl was detected 21 - week of pregnancy after being raped in Asuncion, Paraguay; whereas the girl's fugitive stepfather has been arrested on 9 May 2015 accused of raping the child;
- J. whereas girl's mother requested a voluntary termination of her daughter's pregnancy due to her young age and the risk to her health and life; whereas the girl's mother is detained facing charges of failing her duty of care and therefore being imprisoned; whereas on 7 May 2015 an interdisciplinary panel of experts has been set up to monitor girl's conditions;
- K. whereas the Paraguayan Penal Code explicitly allows a therapeutic interruption of pregnancy to be performed to save the life of a woman; whereas it provides that a member of the health professions shall be exempt from punishment if justifies having caused an interruption of pregnancy for the purpose of saving the life of a woman endangered by pregnancy or childbirth;
- L. whereas according to the survey of 19 May 2015 in Paraguay 87 % of the population is opposed to abortion;
- M. whereas at the EU level the formulation and implementation of policies on sexual and reproductive health is a competence of the Member States;
1. Express its deep concerns about the high number of child sexual abuses and pregnancies in the Latin American countries; urges the authorities of the Latin American countries to meet their obligations and protect the integrity, dignity and safety of women and children by ensuring access to all possible information and proper medical treatment and services;
 2. Urges the authorities to conduct an independent and impartial investigation into the rapes and violence against women and children in the Latin American countries, notably in Argentina, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Paraguay and bring perpetrators to justice; welcomes the proposal by Paraguayan congressmen to raise the maximum sentence for the rape of a minor to 30 years in prison, up from 10 years;
 3. Reaffirms its condemnation to all forms of abuse and violence against women and girls, especially the use of sexual violence in regard to the domestic violence;
 4. Finds it unacceptable that some of the governments turn a blind eye to inhumane cases of child pregnancy and sexual abuse of women and children, at a time when one in three women worldwide experience sexual violence;

5. Urges the EEAS to establish good practices for combating rape and sexual violence against women and girls in third countries with a view tackling the root causes of this problem;
6. Calls on the Commission to encourage ratification at national level and to initiative the procedure for EU accession to the Istanbul Convention; notes that the accession of all Member States to the Istanbul Convention would lead to the development of an integrated policy and the promotion of international cooperation in the fight against all forms of violence against women;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Euro - Latin Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary General of the Organization of American States and Governments of Argentina, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Paraguay.