



Plenary sitting

7.7.2015

B8-0705/2015

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 Bahrain, in particular the case of Nabeel Rajab
(2015/2758(RSP))

**Charles Tannock, Mark Demesmaeker, Ruža Tomašić, Jana Žitňanská,
Anna Elżbieta Fotyga, Geoffrey Van Orden, Ryszard Antoni Legutko,
Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Ryszard Czarnecki, Valdemar Tomaševski, Raffaele
Fitto, Branislav Škripek**
on behalf of the ECR Group

B8-0705/2015

European Parliament resolution on Bahrain, in particular the case of Nabeel Rajab (2015/2758(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Bahrain;
- having regard to the EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World in 2014;
- having regard to the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) established by Royal Order to investigate and report on the events that took place in Bahrain in February 2011, the consequences of those events, and which reported in November 2011;
- having regard to the Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) of 1988;
- having regard to the EU Guidelines on Human Rights defenders of 2004, as updated in 2008;
- having regard to the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review of June 2012;
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948;
- having regard to the 1949 Geneva Convention;
- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure;

A. Whereas Bahrain is a key ally to the European Union in the Persian Gulf, including in areas of political and economic relations, energy, and security;

B. Whereas Nabeel Rajab is president of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) who has served several prison sentences since setting up the organisation in 2002;

C. Whereas Rajab was arrested in April after speaking out against a violent outbreak in a Bahraini prison; whereas other human rights defenders have been arrested, imprisoned or faced other sanctions, such as travel bans or being deprived of their nationality;

D. Whereas the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) established by Royal Order to investigate and report on the events that took place in Bahrain in February 2011, made a series of recommendations on human rights and political reforms; whereas the implementation process is ongoing;

E. Whereas as part of that process municipal and parliamentary elections were held in November 2014 and were generally regarded to be transparent; whereas main opposition groups boycotted these elections, which were reported to have seen incidents of voter

intimidation and violence;

1. Welcomes the establishment of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and the acceptance of its recommendations by His Majesty King Hamad; further believes that the security and stability of Bahrain can only be achieved through the successful implementation in full of these recommendations;
2. Notes that despite the welcome steps taken by the Government of Bahrain towards the implementation of its human rights and political reform agenda there remain concerns relating to political and civil rights;
3. Regrets any attempt to restrict freedom of expression through intimidation, violence, arrest, or imprisonment;
4. Recommends the release of all peaceful demonstrators, human rights activists, and journalists by the Bahraini authorities;
5. Calls for continued international support to the Government of Bahrain in the full implementation of its human rights, judicial, and political reform programme, as recommended in the BICI report, including through the provision of technical assistance, training, and best practice sharing;
6. Welcomes the establishment of institutions such as the Police Ombudsman and National Institution for Human Rights; further calls upon all Bahrainis to make full use of these institutions in order to achieve lasting reconciliation and to address genuine grievances;
7. Urges the HR/VP to continue to raise the importance of reform and reconciliation in all her dealings with the Government of Bahrain;
8. Believes legitimate and peaceful grievances must be allowed to be expressed freely and can contribute to the ongoing reform process in Bahrain;
9. Believes that the process of genuine national reconciliation and inclusive dialogue must be conducted without preconditions or intimidation, and in a peaceful manner;
10. Underlines the importance to the European Union of helping Bahrain return to a stable and reformist state with a good human rights record;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the EEAS, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

06.07.2015