



Plenary sitting

B8-1000/2015

6.10.2015

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 the Central African Republic
(2015/2874(RSP))

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on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on the Central African Republic
(2015/2874(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Central African Republic (CAR),
 - having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
 - having regard to the statement by the EEAS Spokesperson of 28 September 2015 on the violence in the CAR,
 - having regard to Rules 135(5) and 123(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the CAR is seeing an upsurge in violence which has left at least 37 civilians dead and more than a hundred injured,
- B. whereas grave human rights violations continue, not just in the capital Bangui, but also in central parts of the country, where hundreds of people have died and tens of thousands were displaced over the past twelve months,
- C. whereas in July 2014 the Brazzaville Agreement for the cessation of hostilities was signed by the leaders of the rebel groups; whereas despite initial hopes, it did not lead to widespread improvement in the security situation or reconciliation and both the Muslim Seleka rebels and the Christian or animist anti-balaka fighters continue to attack civilians in a retaliatory way, indicating a growing cycle of revenge killings,
- D. whereas humanitarian organizations and their aid workers and residences have been attacked during the latest outbreak of violence; whereas the fighting and the numerous roadblocks have made an already difficult humanitarian situation worse, impeding the ability of the UNHCR and its partners to gain access to thousands of internally displaced persons,
- E. whereas over 500 prisoners have escaped from the Ngaragba prison in Bangui and other from prisons around the CAR; whereas the UN Human Rights Office said the escape is a huge setback for the preservation of law and order, and for the fight against impunity, which has been and remains a chronic problem in the CAR,
- F. whereas impunity continues to be a hallmark of the violence, notwithstanding the Transitional Council has adopted and the interim President has signed into law the establishment of a Special Criminal Court, comprised of both national and international judges and prosecutors, that will investigate and prosecute grave human rights violations committed in the CAR since 2003,
- G. whereas on 24 September 2014 the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) opened a second investigation into the CAR conflict, citing widespread incidences of rape, murder, forced displacement, persecution, and pillaging since 2012,

- H. whereas there has been no functioning education system for two years; whereas there is no work for young people and whereas, according to UNICEF, 6 000 children have been recruited by the armed forces and armed groups,
- I. whereas the peacekeeping operation has been tarnished by allegations of sexual abuse of children and girls by UN soldiers and French peacekeepers,
- J. whereas both the Seleka and the anti-balaka armed groups profit from the diamond trade by controlling mine sites and "taxing" or extorting "protection" money from miners and traders, and whereas CAR traders have purchased diamonds worth several million dollars without adequately investigating whether they financed armed groups,

1. Expresses its deep concern over the situation in the CAR and urges the Transitional Government Authorities to work closely with MINUSCA and other international partners to urgently stop the attempts to derail the current peace process and to deter ongoing efforts towards stability ahead of elections to take place by the end of the year, recalling that any sustainable solution to the crisis must be CAR owned;

2. Expresses its deep concern over the prison escapes in Bangui and around the CAR, particularly since many of the escapes include well-known perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses, and pose a serious threat to civilians and the protection of victims and witnesses as well to the overall security situation;

3. Calls on the international partners to lend all possible support to the joint efforts in the fields of security, humanitarian aid, the establishment of the rule of law and economic recovery;

4. Urges all parties to abide by the disarmament agreement and to speed up the disarmament in order to prevent all sides to the conflict using their weapons to commit further crimes under international law;

5. Calls for the free movement of aid workers to reach civilians in need;

6. Asks the Commission and the EU Member States and the other international partners to urgently pledge financial and technical support to expedite the establishment of the Special Criminal Court;

7. Calls on the countries whose soldiers are responsible for rape and sexual exploitation on peacekeeping missions in the CAR to stop covering their crimes and to put them on trial;

8. Urges the CAR diamond traders to prove due diligence and the international diamond companies to address Kimberly Process failures in the diamond supply chain from the CAR to the United Arab Emirates and Belgium;

9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, VP/HR Mogherini, the UN Security Council, the UN Secretary General, the institutions of the African Union, ECCAS, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the EU Member States and the National Transitional Council of the Central African Republic.