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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-0196/2016**

2.2.2016

## **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: the case of Mohammed Ramadan  
(2016/2557(RSP))

**Charles Tannock, Angel Dzhambazki, Beatrix von Storch, Jana Žitňanská, Monica Macovei, Arne Gericke, Valdemar Tomaševski**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

**B8-0196/2016**

**European Parliament resolution on Bahrain: the case of Mohammed Ramadan (2016/2557(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Bahrain;
- 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 recommendations in the Manama Declaration on Combating the Financing of Terrorism of November 9th 2015;
- having regard to the workshop on combating terror financing and violent extremism organised by the Bahraini Foreign Ministry, the Central Bank of Bahrain in cooperation with the GCC General-Secretariat and the US held on 21 November 2015;
- having regard to the presentation of the Second Annual Report 2014 by the President of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), Dr. Abdulaziz Abul to Interior Minister Lt. Gen. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa on 27 January 2016;
- having regard to the Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) of 1988;
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948;
- having regard to the 1949 Geneva Convention;
- having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of Procedure;

A. Whereas Bahrain is a key partner to the European Union in the Persian Gulf, including in areas of political and economic relations, energy, and security; whereas the stability of the Arabian Gulf region is of strategic interest to NATO and it is in our mutual interest to further deepen our partnership as to better respond to future security challenges;

B. Whereas on 20 March 2014 Mohammed Ramadan, a 32-year old airport security guard was arrested by the Bahraini authorities with Hussain Ali Moosa for allegedly taking part in a bombing on 14 February 2014 in Al Dair, killing a security officer and wounded several others;

C. Whereas charges against the two include premeditated murder of a police officer, possession and detonation of explosives and other tools for detonation for terrorist purposes and participation in a riot aimed at undermining security and public order;

D. Whereas on 29 December 2014 the higher criminal court sentenced both individuals to

death, a decision upheld by the Court of Appeals on 27 May 2015 and by the court of cassation on 16 November 2015;

E. Whereas the office of the Ombudsman received four complaints regarding the arrest, whereabouts, medical treatment and right to appeal of Mohammed Ramadan; whereas according to the Bahraini authorities the defendants had been provided with access to their legal representatives throughout their whole trial and appeal processes;

F. Whereas a court decision to sentence to death will not be enforced until it is final and approved by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa;

1. Strongly condemns the alleged torture of Mohammed Ramadan and his alleged confession under duress; requests His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa to review Mohammed Ramadan's death sentence;

2. Welcomes the creation of an independent Police Ombudsman's office in 2012 to establish a system of civilian oversight of complaints and investigations, going beyond the BICI recommendation; furthermore welcomes the creation in the same year of a Special Investigation Unit (SIU) as an independent body to investigate any allegations involving death, torture, mistreatment or degrading treatment made against officials within the Ministry of Interior;

3. Welcomes the creation of the Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission (PDRC) in 2013 as a national Bahraini preventative mechanism in line with the Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture;

4. Welcomes the establishment of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and the acceptance of its recommendations by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa; further believes that the security and stability of Bahrain can only be achieved through the successful implementation in full of these recommendations;

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 Bahrain's model of religious and cultural diversity and welcomes the National Action Charter and the constitution in this regard;

7. Welcomes Bahrain's participation in the fight against international terrorism as well as its efforts to combat terror-financing; welcomes Bahrain's participation in the US-led coalition against the Islamic State; expresses great concern however about possible links between individual prominent Bahraini citizens and the Islamic State;

8. Calls for the strengthening of relations between NATO and Bahrain in the framework of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, including the strengthening of maritime security and in this regard, particularly welcomes the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF); welcomes the agreement between the United Kingdom and Bahrain to open a permanent Royal Navy base;

9. 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 th