



Plenary sitting

B8-0346/2016

8.3.2016

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 Egypt, notably the case of Giulio Regeni
(2016/2608(RSP))

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on behalf of the ECR Group

B8-0346/2016

**European Parliament resolution on Egypt, notably the case of Giulio Regeni
(2016/2608(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Egypt, in particular that of 17 December 2015 and that of 15 January 2015;
- having regard to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- having regard to the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a party;
- having regard to the Arab Charter on Human Rights, to which Egypt is a party;
- having regard to the Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt;
- having regard to the EU-Egypt Association Agreement of 2004;
- having regard to the European Neighbourhood Policy and the most recent progress report on Egypt of 25 March 2015;
- having regard to the results of the Egyptian Parliamentary elections of October and December 2015;
- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure;

A. Whereas Giulio Regeni was a 28-year-old Italian PhD student at Cambridge University conducting research on Egypt's labour movements;

B. Whereas his body was found by a road on the outskirts of Cairo with marks of torture, nine days after he was reported missing in Cairo on 25 January 2016;

C. Whereas Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi made a phone call to Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi once he learned of the murder on Giulio Regeni;

D. Whereas the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has transmitted several of the investigative materials requested by the Italian Government through diplomatic channels in the past few weeks;

E. Whereas the materials have been immediately made available to the Italian investigative team operating in Cairo by order of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Rome;

F. Whereas the Italian Foreign Ministry acknowledges that it received part of the material requested and that it believes the collaboration in investigations must promptly be accomplished in the interest of establishing the truth;

G. Whereas Egypt performed a post-mortem examination before repatriating his body to Italy, where Italian investigators also performed a post-mortem and of which they haven't published their conclusions; whereas the Italian-Egyptian investigation is still on going and no conclusions have yet been published;

H. Whereas in response to a call by Amnesty International, on February 12th 2016 Italian government-backed energy company Eni expressed confidence in Egyptian investigators who are examining the torture and murder of Giulio Regeni;

I. Whereas Egypt has a rich history and has always played an important and influential role in the region; whereas Egypt is a long-standing strategic partner for the European Union, with shared goals of building stability, peace, and prosperity in the Mediterranean and Middle East regions;

J. Whereas Egypt faces terrorism from various Jihadi organisations active in Egypt, notably in the Sinai, and which have links to the Islamic State and other terrorist organisations active in the Libyan crisis; whereas the on going conflict in Libya has a direct influence on the security of Egypt; whereas the on going crisis is of serious concern to the European Union and Italy in particular;

1. Strongly condemns the torture and murder of Italian PhD student Giulio Regeni; offers its condolences to his family and friends and calls for every effort to be made to catch the perpetrators of the crime as soon as possible and bring them to justice;

2. Welcomes the Egyptian invitation to the Italian authorities to code share the investigation and welcomes in this light the assurances made by Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry that Egypt is fully ready to co-operate with Italy in order to catch the perpetrators of the despicable crime;

3. Welcomes the importance Egypt attaches to its relations with Italy and the EU by inviting Italian investigators to operate in Egypt and to share information from the investigation into the murder of Giulio Regeni, acting as a precedent in modern Egyptian history;

4. Urges Egypt to fully cooperate in the investigation of the murder of Giulio Regeni; requests an urgent, transparent and credible inquiry and calls on the Egyptian authorities to fully and transparently cooperate with the Italian authorities;

5. Believes Egypt, European Union Member States and third countries have a shared interest in defeating any threats to regional and international security; reaffirms its offers to help the Egyptian authorities develop robust intelligence and security mechanisms;

6. Reaffirms its commitment to Egypt as a key strategic partner in the region; shares the concerns of the Egyptian people about the economic, political and security challenges facing their country and their region, and again reaffirms its offer to grant support in addressing such issues;

7. Condemns the continued attacks against minority groups in Egypt, and calls on the Government of Egypt to prosecute those carrying out such attacks;

8. Welcomes the government of Egypt's initiative to rebuild the churches that were burnt

down during the 2011 riots; welcomes in this context the rebuilding of tens of churches by the Egyptian army; welcomes Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's statements on the importance of building unity within Egyptian society as well as his calls for a renewal of Islamic discourse to challenge extremism and radicalisation;

9. Calls on the Egyptian authorities to ensure the rights of religious minorities, including their right to worship, in Egypt and in the Egyptian army; in this context specifically calls on the Egyptian authorities to do their utmost to ensure the protection of Coptic girls from kidnaping and forced marriages; urges Egypt to openly and transparently investigate the supposed suicides of Bishoy Natei Kamel, Baha Gamal, Saeed Karam and the Copt soldier only known by the name Michael, while they served in the Egyptian army;

10. Calls on Egypt to review its blasphemy laws and ensure the protection of religious minorities from this law; requests and urges the Egyptian authorities to release the four Christian teenagers without delay who have recently been convicted under Egypt's blasphemy laws of which three were sentenced to five years in prison and one was sent to a juvenile court institution; acknowledges that the case is still open to appeal; calls in this regard for the formation of a citizenship ministry to review all procedures that include types of discrimination and to build a new nation based on citizenship;

11. Believes that as a major actor in the Middle East and North Africa, Egypt's transition to a democratic state has the potential to be the role model for many other states in the region;

12. Calls on the Government of Egypt to guarantee that domestic and international civil society organisations and independent trade unions can operate freely without government interference or intimidation in the country;

13. Supports the aspirations of the majority of Egyptian people who want to establish a free, stable, prosperous, inclusive, and democratic country, which respects its national and international commitments on human rights and fundamental freedoms;

14. 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 President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Parliament of the Arab Republic of Egypt.