



Plenary sitting

B8-1000/2016

13.9.2016

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 Zimbabwe
(2016/2882(RSP))

Charles Goerens, Hilde Vautmans, Petras Auštrevičius, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Dita Charanzová, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Louis Michel, Nedzhmi Ali, Gérard Deprez, Marian Harkin, Urmas Paet, Pavel Telička, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Javier Nart, Marietje Schaake, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Hannu Takkula, Carolina Punset, Martina Dlabajová, Cecilia Wikström, Marielle de Sarnez, José Inácio Faria, Ivo Vajgl, María Teresa Giménez Barbat, Paavo Väyrynen, Ivan Jakovčić, Frédérique Ries, Petr Ježek, Jasenko Selimovic, Kaja Kallas, Filiz Hyusmenova, Valentinas Mazuronis
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on Zimbabwe
(2016/2882(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Zimbabwe, notably those of 7 February 2013 and 25 May 2015 on the case of human rights defender late Itai Dzamara,
 - having regard to the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for Zimbabwe,
 - having regard to the EU Annual Action Programme for Zimbabwe adopted in 2015,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2016/214 of 15 February 2016 amending Regulation (EC) N° 314/2004 concerning certain restrictive measures in respect of Zimbabwe, extending sanctions by one year,
 - having regard to Local EU Statement on Local Governance on 30 June 2016 violence and the one on violence on 12 July 2016, both issued in Harare,
 - having regard to the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights of June 1981, which Zimbabwe has ratified,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 policies,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
 - having regard to the Constitution of Zimbabwe,
 - having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
 - having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of procedure,
- A. whereas veteran President Robert Mugabe has dominated the country's political scene for 36 years ; whereas the longstanding partnership between the EU and the people of Zimbabwe begun with Zimbabwe's independence from Great Britain in 1980, providing development assistance to the country;
- B. whereas since 2000 Zimbabwe has struggled to feed its own people due to severe droughts and the effects of a land reform programme, which saw the seizure of white-owned farms redistributed to landless black Zimbabweans, which led to sharp falls in production;
- C. whereas cash-strapped and impoverished, Zimbabwe's economy faces severe challenges, unemployment and poverty became endemic and political strife and repression commonplace; whereas many Zimbabweans have left the country in search of work in South Africa; whereas, according to a report this week by the Commission of Human Rights in Zimbabwe, the government is accused of denying food aid to opposition

supporters, an aid distributed by the government but often purchased with donations from the international community;

- D. whereas the EU and its member states have since 2009 provided over US\$1 billion in development assistance, with an emphasis on supporting the provision of social services and food security, reinforcing democratic institutions, and fostering economic recovery;
- E. whereas the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for Zimbabwe has been allocated 234 million euro for the period of 2014-2020 under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) with focus on 3 main sectors, namely: health, agriculture based economic development and governance (la gestion des finances publiques) and institution building; (la magistrature, Commission électorale du Zimbabwe); Rappelle que l'UE est le troisième plus grand donateur après les Etats Unis et le Royaume-Uni;
- F. whereas the current situation in Zimbabwe with regard to human rights, democracy and rule of law is worsening; que la disparition forcée en mars dernier du journaliste et militant politique Itai Dzamara reste non élucidée; whereas discontent has been growing in the country for several months due to social and economic crises, the restriction of the rights of freedom of expression for journalists and human rights defenders through arbitrary arrests, detentions and prosecutions; whereas the government blocked Internet access and social media text messaging to obstruct people protesting traffic police corruption, widespread poverty and lack of jobs;
- G. whereas “the tide has turned” since Pastor Evan Mawarire launched the movement “This Flag” as a peaceful citizen sling by posting a video clip where he denounced the mismanagement of the government, which plunged into a serious economic crisis since the early 2000s; whereas CODE (Coalition of Democrats- alliance of opposition parties) states that since the installation of the ZANU-PF government in 2013 after the elections of that year, the people of Zimbabwe have been enduring extreme hardships: the economy collapsed, with the attendant loss of jobs, incomes and livelihoods, decimation of production and productive assets;
- H. whereas increasing poverty exacerbated by a long drought, due notamment au phénomène climatique El Nino, the financial crisis and the non-payment of salaries of civil servants in June and the ban by the government to import essential commodities from South Africa, are the main factors that led people to take to the streets and ensure the success of the general strike on July 6th 2016; whereas Pastor Evan Mawarire was accused of leading a “campaign to overthrow or attempted to overthrow the government by unconstitutional means” have been arrested on 13 July 2016 but finally released; whereas, on Friday 26 August 2016, a demonstration organised by 18 opposition political parties and the civil society has degenerated and there were more than 60 demonstrators arrested;
- I. whereas the political opposition, led by Morgan Tsvangirai (former prime-minister of the country) and Joyce Mujuru (former Mugabe’s vice-president), says that on every Friday demonstrations will be organised in Harare, the capital city until the general elections of 2018; whereas on the civil society side, the campaign “This Flag” is at the forefront of the protests;
- J. whereas the government banned all demonstrations in the capital city Harare on Thursday 1st September 2016, while a protest was planned for the next day and that the country has

been shaken for several weeks by a significant protest movement against the confiscation of the power by President Mugabe;

- K. whereas the veterans of the independence struggle, close allies of Mugabe in the ruling party, boycotted his speech on 8 August 2016, denouncing his dictatorial drift and his failure to solve the grave economic crisis plaguing the country since 2000; whereas the President lived the boycott as a betrayal and, in retaliation, he arrested 3 members of the National Association of Independence Veterans;
- L. whereas Zimbabwe's 92 years old president and oldest president in the world has a clear succession plan as he is up for re-election and is preparing his 50-year old wife, Grace Mugabe, to which he wants to pass over the presidency; qu'une lutte pour le pouvoir oppose Grace Mugabe au premier vice-président Emmerson Mnangagwa, soutenu par l'appareil sécuritaire et des anciens combattants thus a considerable uncertainty exists about whether a stable succession will take place even if he dies or departs the presidency by other means;
1. Notes with great concern the continued deterioration of the human rights situation since the installation of the ZANU-PF government in 2013 and in particular during the last 3 months; strongly condemns the use of brutal force against peaceful demonstrators on 6 July 2016;
 2. welcomes the lifting of the ban on demonstration in the capital city Harare and greets the courage of the justice which acted in line with sections 50 and 59 of the Zimbabwean Constitution ; deplores the attempt by Mugabe to interfere with the judiciary after the lifting of the ban on demonstrations;
 3. recalls to Zimbabwean authorities that freedom of assembly, association and expression are essential components of any democracy and are enshrined in the Constitution of the country; calls on the government of Zimbabwe to put an end to the harassment and human rights abuses against human rights defenders, journalists and members of civil society; demande que toute la lumière soit faite sur la disparition forcée du journaliste et militant politique Itai Dzamara et que les responsables soient traduits en justice;
 4. urges President Mugabe, his government and his leading party, the ZANU-PF to take heed of the people's call for change ; notes objectively that the post- Mugabe time must be anticipated;
 5. supports the Council regulation of 15 February 2016 concerning certain restrictive measures in respect of Zimbabwe;
 6. insists that the EU must insure that the funding to Zimbabwe for the NIP effectively addresses the allocated sectors; appeals to the international community, the development partners of Zimbabwe to take urgent and effective measures to help Zimbabwean people of whom 1.5 million people were in need of food aid during the 2015-2016 lean period leading up to the next harvest according to Amnesty International report;
 7. condamne les expulsions forcées et arbitraires qui ont lieu tant dans la capitale que dans l'ensemble du pays;

8. calls on the EU and its Member states to work toward a contingency plan, given the plight of Zimbabwe and its humanitarian needs, to continue to offer and increase its assistance in order to promote democracy, protection of human rights and the rule of law through civil society organisations, so that Zimbabwe can become a free and prosperous country;
9. instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and the parliaments of the Member states, the government and the parliament of Zimbabwe, the Council of the African Union and the Secretary General of the UN.