



Plenary sitting

B9-0214/2019

26.11.2019

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 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on Haiti
(2019/2928(RSP))

Michael Gahler, Tomáš Zdechovský, Ivan Štefanec, Eva Maydell, Vladimír Bilčík, Magdalena Adamowicz, Michaela Šojdrová, Milan Zver, Isabel Wiseler-Lima, Željana Zovko, Roberta Metsola, Lefteris Christoforou, Loucas Furlas, Tomas Tobé, Seán Kelly, Romana Tomc, David McAllister, Stelios Kypourouopoulos, Arba Kokalari, Tomasz Frankowski, Sandra Kalniete, Stanislav Polčák, Loránt Vincze, Inese Vaidere, Jiří Pospíšil, Antonio López-Istúriz White
on behalf of the PPE Group

B9-0214/2019

**European Parliament resolution on Haiti
(2019/2928(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Haiti, notably the resolution on child slavery in Haiti from February 2018,
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the Members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part (the Cotonou Agreement), and the human rights clauses contained therein, in particular Article 9.2,
- having regard to the report from the European Commission Directorate General on International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), published on 20 November 2019 and entitled “*Haiti Overview*”,
- having regard to the declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the situation in Haiti on 7 November 2019,
- having regard to the declaration by the spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on 1 November 2019,
- having regard to the article published by Amnesty International on 31 October 2019, which provides evidence of excessive use of force against protesters,
- having regard to the report from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on 1 October 2019 regarding the situation in Haiti,
- having regard to the statement made by the Delegation of the European Union to Haiti on 28 May 2019,
- having regard to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Index
- having regard to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, of which Haiti is a signatory;
- having regard to the articles published by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) on various attacks carried out on journalists who were reporting on the situation in Haiti,
- having regard to Rule 144 of its Rule of Procedure,

- A. whereas Haiti is facing a critical humanitarian crisis that entails a grave deterioration of the living conditions and access to basic needs, a profound worsening of the security and human rights situation, as well as an economic slowdown;
- B. whereas Haiti is also confronted with a political crisis, and has been without a government since March;
- C. whereas the political instability in the country has led to aggravated tensions and resulted in various protests since September 2019;
- D. whereas, according to the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, at least 42 people have died and 86 have been injured since the latest round of protests has started in 15 September 2019;
- E. whereas, according to the *World Report 2019* from Human Rights Watch, political instability is hindering the Haitian government's ability to meet the basic needs of its people, resolve long-standing human rights problems, or address humanitarian crises;
- F. whereas, according to the World Bank, more than 6 million Haitians live below the poverty line and more than 2.5 million fall below the extreme poverty line out of a population of approximately 11 million;
- G. whereas Haiti, ranked as number 168 of the world's countries in the UNDP Human Development Index, which is lower than its previous rankings, is in continuous need of humanitarian and development aid;
- H. whereas there have been allegations of human right violations and use of excessive force against protesters;
- I. whereas the Haitian police, armed with semi-automatic rifles, has fired live ammunition during protests; whereas this constitutes a violation of international human rights law and standards on the use of force;
- J. whereas some of the victims caused by the protests are journalists who were injured or killed, including Cheri Dieu-Nalio (September 24), Edmond Agenor Joseph (October 1) and Néhémie Joseph (October 11);
- K. whereas Haiti ranks 62 in the 2019 World Press Freedom Index, which is lower than its 2018 ranking;
- L. whereas, in an unprecedented but peaceful Catholic-led march through Port-au-Prince on 22 October 2019, marchers called for a resolution to the crisis that has paralyzed the country; whereas several statements from members of the Haitian Catholic Church and representatives of the ASVI Foundation in Haiti condemn the situation and call for serious change in the country;
- 1. Notes with great concern the current situation in Haiti; deeply regrets the breaches that have been made to basic freedoms, including freedom of speech and assembly, and freedom from violence;

2. Strongly condemns any form of violence in the context of the ongoing protests, including the killing of protestors or journalists by law enforcement officials, and all incidents of excess use of force by the police;
3. Urges both sides to avoid violence under all circumstances to prevent further instability and suffering of the population;
4. Is deeply concerned by the state of media freedom in Haiti during the ongoing protests; emphasises the importance of ensuring and promoting a pluralist, independent and free media landscape in the service of democratic society;
5. Recalls the commitments made by the Haitian government under article 9.2 of the Cotonou Agreement concerning human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
6. Calls on the Haitian government to take urgent measures to ensure that the right to demonstrate freely and peacefully is respected; calls on the Haitian government to ensure that the police stop using firearms carrying live ammunition in the context of protests;
7. Calls on the Haitian government to uphold its commitments regarding freedom of the press, and to respect the individual rights of journalists working in Haiti; urges the Haitian government to take measures to guarantee the safety of journalists and human rights defenders covering or monitoring the political and human rights situation in the country;
8. Calls on the Haitian government to initiate a prompt, impartial, independent and effective investigation into the allegations of excessive use of force or other human rights violations by law enforcement officials;
9. Reiterates the European Union's commitment to support the Haitian people on their path to stability, development and democracy, including the rule of law; calls on the European Union and its member states to provide the financial and technical resources needed to guarantee the protection of economic, social and cultural rights of the Haitian population;
10. Calls on the Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) to strengthen its oversight of aid to Haiti, especially as regards good governance and democracy support, and report back to the European Parliament before the end of 2021;
11. Encourages Haiti to receive a visit from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to monitor the unfolding human rights crisis in the country; calls on the EU and its member states to provide funding to the IACHR for such a visit if needed;
12. Deplores that large numbers of children in Haiti are placed away from their biological families in situations where they are used as labour in the so called "restavèk" system; calls for an end to this practice;
13. Calls for the Haitian government to put in a place an administrative system which guarantees that all new born children are registered at birth, and that measures are taken to register those who were not registered at birth;

14. Encourages the Haitian authorities to accept a visit from the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the Parliament of Haiti.