



Plenary sitting

B9-0289/2020

15.9.2020

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 the case of Dr. Denis Mukwege in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
(2020/2783(RSP))

Anna Fotyga, Karol Karski, Assita Kanko, Witold Jan Waszczykowski, Ryszard Czarnecki, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Alexandr Vondra, Bogdan Rzońca, Joanna Kopcińska, Valdemar Tomaševski, Elżbieta Kruk, Angel Dzhambazki, Emmanouil Fragkos
on behalf of the ECR Group

B9-0289/2020

**European Parliament resolution on the case of Dr. Denis Mukwege in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
(2020/2783(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the 2010 UN report of the mapping exercise documenting the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed within the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo between March 1993 and June 2003,
 - having regard to the 2020 UNJHRO report on violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the Allied Democratic Forces armed group and by members of the defence and security forces in Beni territory, North Kivu province and Irumu and Mambasa territories, Ituri province, between 1 July 2019 and 31 January 2020,
 - having regard to the joint statement of 18 June 2020 of EU high Representative Josep Borrell and the UN Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict Pramila Patten on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflicts,
 - having regard to the statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States on sexual violence in conflict at the meeting of the UN Security Council of 17 July 2020,
 - having regard to the declaration of 28 August 2020 of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Bachelet,
 - having regard to the exchange of views with Dr, Denis Mukwege and the exchange of views on the human rights situation in the DRC with Abdoul Aziz Thioye (UNJHRO) and Dr, Jean Claude Mputu, spokesperson of the campaign “Le Congo n’est pas a vendre”, at the DROI committee meeting of 31 August 2020,
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Dr. Mukwege has repeatedly, both on national and international level, condemned impunity of mass rape and criticised the Congolese government and other countries for not doing enough to stop the use of sexual violence against women as a weapon of war and armed conflict, which constitutes both a war crime and a threat to peace and has also the intention of destroying communities;
- B. whereas Dr, Mukwege has founded the Panzi hospital where as a surgeon he has treated thousands of victims of sexual violence in armed conflict;
- C. whereas Dr. Mukwege, Nobel Peace Prize laureate 2018 and Sakharov Prize laureate 2014, has received death threats in the past and survived a major assassination attempt in October 2012;

- D. whereas the recent alarming surge of threats against Dr. Mukwege, which had been conveyed via social media and in direct phone calls to him and his family, followed his condemnation of the continued killing of civilians in the Eastern DRC and his renewed calls for accountability for human rights violations and abuses and for transitional justice;
- E. whereas between January and June 2020 the UN Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) in the DRC documented 4,113 human rights violations and abuses throughout the territory of the DRC, an increase of 17% compared to the previous semester and 35% compared to the same period last year;
- F. whereas this upward trend is explained by an exponential increase (+ 91%) in the number of attacks attributed to armed groups, which is indicative of a deterioration in the human rights situation in the provinces in conflict, in particular Ituri, South Kivu, North Kivu and Tanganyika, while the number of violations committed by state agents has slightly decreased (- 3%);
- G. whereas UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Bachelet expressed deep concern over the recent death threats directed at Dr. Mukwege, and called for swift action to investigate who is behind the threats and bring them to justice;
- H. whereas Jose Aruna, who advocates for better governance of natural resources and the human rights of local communities, received death threats on 27 August 2020 and whereas Lucien Byamungu Munganga, a human rights defender affiliated with the organisation “Lutte pour le Changement” (LUCHA), was arbitrarily arrested on 22 July 2020 whilst peacefully demonstrating;
1. Remains deeply concerned by the worrisome threats, as they do not only put the life and safety of Dr. Mukwege at risk, but also undermine his work to heal and defend the rights of survivors of sexual violence;
 2. Welcomes the redeployment of elements from MONUSCO to the Panzi hospital to ensure the safety of its patients and staff and urges the UN and the DRC to protect Dr. Mukwege on a permanent basis in order to allow him to continue his lifesaving work;
 3. Urges the authorities of the DRC to take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of human rights defenders, including Dr. Denis Mukwege, Jose Aruna and Lucien Byamungu Munganga;
 4. Calls on the UN, the EU and its Member States, and the DRC and the other states of the Great Lakes Region to step up efforts to prevent human rights violations and abuses in the Eastern DRC with concrete steps to establish transitional justice processes that grant victims of successive conflicts their right to justice, truth and reparations;
 5. Condemns the use of sexual violence against women in conflicts and calls upon the international community to accelerate its efforts to eliminate the scourge of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts and wars, to protect the victims, to end impunity for the perpetrators, and to guarantee access to justice, reparations and redress for survivors;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the VP/HR, the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the African Union and the United Nations.