



Plenary sitting

B9-0174/2021

9.3.2021

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 situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and the assassination of the Italian Ambassador Luca Attanasio and his entourage
(2021/2577(RSP))

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on behalf of the ID Group

B9-0174/2021

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and the assassination of the Italian Ambassador Luca Attanasio and his entourage
(2021/2577(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC),
 - having regard to UN Security Council resolutions, notably Resolution 2528 of 25 June 2020 on the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Resolution 2463 of 29 March 2019 on the extension of the of the mandate of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO),
 - 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),
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo is struggling with numerous conflicts often linked to attempts to control mineral resources; whereas this context engenders a mixture of extreme violence, armed groups, foreign rebel groups, Jihadist infiltration, criminal gangs, corrupt security forces, immense wealth (such as coltan, gold, diamonds, oil), with international actors moving behind armed groups as well as multinationals exploiting the main assets of the country;
- B. Whereas both in North and South Kivu, attacks on humanitarians and kidnappings of humanitarian workers have been increasing and - according to a recent UN report - Eastern DRC remains one of the most insecure parts of the country, with more than 2,000 civilians killed last year by armed groups;
- C. Whereas on February 22, the Italian Ambassador Luca Attanasio and the Carabinieri officer with him, Vittorio Iacovacci, were travelling in a convoy of the World Food Program from the North Kivu capital Goma to see a feeding programme in Rutshuru, close to the borders with Rwanda and Uganda, when the convoy was attacked by a group of armed men that stopped the convoy and forced the passengers to disembark before an exchange of gunfire;
- D. Whereas this attack resulted in the death of the Italian Ambassador Luca Attanasio, the Carabinieri Vittorio Iacovacci and the Congolese driver Mustapha Milando; other people travelling in the convey were also injured;
1. Strongly condemns the unprovoked and cowardly attack against the Italian Ambassador Luca Attanasio and his entourage;

2. Deplores that at the moment the exact circumstances of this brutal attack still remain unclear and urges that those responsible for this crime are brought to justice;
3. Notes that, given also the instability in the neighbouring countries of the region, the Democratic Republic of Congo is continuing to experience cruel violence perpetrated by armed domestic and foreign rebel groups, including Jihadist infiltrations; stresses that those groups still exploit and recruit children to be used as child-soldiers;
4. Calls on the Congolese authorities to cooperate effectively with the Italian prosecutors to shed more light on the killing of the Italian Ambassador Luca Attanasio and the Carabinieri officer Vittorio Iacovacci;
5. Calls on the UN, in the person of its Secretary General Guterres, to provide a precise account of the facts as well as to clarify the role played by its representatives during the mission;
6. Recalls that the EU has been one of the main development partners of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for years; asks the Commission to consider suspending the European Union Visitors Programme (EUVP), which is jointly sponsored and administered by the Commission and the European Parliament, until the DRC has issued a clear statement condemning this atrocious act and has taken concrete measures to uncover the truth and to bring the perpetrators to justice;
7. Calls on the VP/HR to follow the situation closely with the Congolese authorities, asking for a rapid, efficient and transparent justice response;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the UN Secretary General, the President, Prime Minister and Parliament of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Union and its institutions, the President, Prime Minister and Parliament of the Italian Republic.