



Plenary sitting

B9-0576/2022

13.12.2022

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 Military junta crackdown on peaceful demonstrations in Chad
(2022/2993(RSP))

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on behalf of the Renew Group

**European Parliament resolution on the Military junta crackdown on peaceful demonstrations in Chad
(2022/2993(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Chad,
 - having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights of 1981,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance of 2007,
 - having regard to the joint EU-Africa Strategy,
 - having regard to the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals,
 - having regard to the Revised Transition Charter of Chad;
- A. Whereas on 3 September 2022, demonstrations took place in N'Djamena against the alleged National Inclusive and Sovereign Dialogue, after it was understood that this was false and 280 arrests took place;
- B. whereas 19 October 2022 marked the end of the original 18-month transition period after which Chad's ruling military was initially supposed to cede power, with commitments made to the African Union, the European Union and the entire international community;
- C. whereas on 20 October 2022, when the military junta was to end, , there were other demonstrations in which the authorities recognized a toll of 50 dead, including 10 members of the security forces, and 300 injured, and announced that a Judicial Commission would be established to determine responsibility;
- D. whereas the security forces fired live ammunition at demonstrators;
- E. whereas on 4 November, at the meeting of the United Nations Committee against Torture, rapporteur Sébastien Touzé estimated that between 50 and 150 people had died, 150 to 184 had disappeared, 1,369 had been arrested, and between 600 and 1,100 had been deported to a high security prison Koro- Toro in the desert, some 600 kilometres from the capital;

- F. whereas on 2 December 2022, the N'Djamena High Court sentenced 401 of the people arrested and transferred to Koro Toro prison, with jail terms of between two and three years to 262 people, suspended terms for 80 and 59 acquitted, and 83 minors held there have been taken back to N'Djamena, where they will remain in a prison before appearing in a special court for children;
 - G. whereas these sentences occurred after four days of hearings behind closed doors of the Koro-Toro prison, without the presence of defence lawyers that boycotted proceedings on the grounds of illegal transfer to Koro-Toro; whereas the Chad Bar Association called the trial parody of justice and has appealed the court's decision;
 - H. whereas the authorities had previously stated that 601 people, including 83 minors, were arrested in the N'Djamena area alone and taken to Koro Toro;
 - I. whereas it is not clear what happened to 117 missing persons, difference between the number of arrests announced previously and the detainees presented to the court;
 - J. whereas the Koro-Toro prison, with thousands of detainees, is the most sinister and deadliest prison ever known in the country in the middle of the desert;
 - K. whereas the transitional government convened in Doha 53 political-military movements, of which no more than 6 had real existence;
 - L. whereas in contradiction with the commitments the government convoked in N'Djamena delegates of which no less than 1300 were directly appointed by the government to attend the so-called National Inclusive and Sovereign Dialogue; whereas the political-military movements (6 forces who refused to sign the Doha Peace Agreement) and political-social and religious organisations refused to take part to the dialogue in N'Djamena;
 - M. whereas these two events were boycotted by the most important political parties, civil society organisations and the real political military groups, refusing to endorse the objectives set out in advance by the military junta;
1. Denounces the excessive use of force against demonstrators and calls on Chadian authorities to respect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly,
 2. Strongly condemns the summary executions, violence against civilians, the repression of demonstrations and the excessive use of force which constitute serious violations of the freedoms of expression and demonstration that undermine the ongoing transition process;
 3. Denounces the denial of the right to a fair and public trial, the preparation of a defence case and access to information; expresses all its surprise for the speed that marks the

judgments of 400 people in four days, that is to say 100 judgments per day in Koro-Toro in the absence of any defence lawyer;

4. Denounces the appalling living and sanitary conditions in the Koro-Toro prison access to food and water, horrendous heat, and calls for its immediate closure;
5. Calls on the European Parliament to organise a parliamentary fact-finding mission composed by the political groups to establish the situation of human rights in Chad and to visit the prisons especially in Koro Toro;
6. Reiterates the importance of establishment of constitutional order and a time-limited transition that guarantees respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; insists that engagement with all civil and political actors is also essential to ensure the credibility and legitimacy of the ongoing process;
7. Regrets that the results of the National Dialogue are not consistent with the original commitments of the Transitional Military Council and their consequences for an inclusive, peaceful, and timely transition to a democratic and civilian-led government;
8. Is appalled by the ruling authorities' disregard for the clear directive of the African Union Peace and Security Council and public commitments of the Transitional Military Council that its leaders would not be candidates in upcoming elections;
9. Urges the European Union and its Member States to raise these human rights concerns with the Chadian authorities;
10. Calls on the European Union to rapidly implement the proposal of the Team Europe for Chad initiative on governance, democratisation, peace and security and assess the relevance of joint programming in this area priority in order to achieve the expected results;
11. Recalls that genuine democratic transition to democracy and reform aspired by the Chadian people must be civilian-led and allow for the full and active involvement of civil society organisations, opposition parties, women, young people and the free press, prioritise dialogue and respect for human rights of citizens, including the right to freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly, without violence, intimidation or restrictions;
12. Believes that a government selected by the people of Chad in a free and fair election, overseen by independent institutions, will offer the best hope for Chad to emerge from decades of conflict;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign

Affairs and Security Policy, the ACP-EU Council, the institutions of the African Union, and the authorities of Chad.