

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marco Pannella, Paulo Casaca, Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit, Chris Davies and Charles Tannock

on the violation of the fundamental rights of the people of Vietnam and respect for the rights of Montagnards

Lapse date: 23 December 2002

15/2002

Declaration on the violation of the fundamental rights of the people of Vietnam and respect for the rights of Montagnards

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the 75th session of the UN Human Rights Committee and the European Parliament have on a number of occasions denounced violations of the fundamental rights of the people of Vietnam,
- B. whereas the issue of respect by the Vietnamese authorities for democratic principles, fundamental rights and the principle of legality laid down by the EU-Vietnam cooperation agreement cannot be regarded as an internal one to Vietnam but directly concerns the Union and its citizens,
- C. whereas Montagnards are increasingly being denied the right to respect for their religious, ethnic and cultural identity, while violations of their civil and political rights are becoming continually worse,
- D. whereas practices used by the Vietnamese authorities even include electric shock and other forms of torture as well as the disappearance of those arrested and the destruction of churches and sacred objects and whereas the Cambodian authorities are promised payment for capturing and repatriating refugees seeking to flee Vietnam,

Calls on the Commission and Council:

- 1. to submit a report to Parliament before the end of 2002 on appropriate steps taken in this connection;
- 2. to request the Vietnamese Government to act on the recommendations of the 75th session of the UN Human Rights Committee and guarantee that the civil and political rights and fundamental freedoms of Montagnards are fully respected in accordance with international treaties;
- 3. to inform the Vietnamese authorities that the EU will suspend the cooperation agreement by the end of 2002 if they fail to act on these requests.