

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

17 November 1999

B5-0267/1999 }
B5-0285/1999 }
B5-0293/1999 }
B5-0301/1999 }

}RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Van Hecke and Khanbhai, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
Van den Berg, on behalf of the PSE Group
Ries and van den Bos, on behalf of the ELDR Group
Maes, Rod, Schörling, Lucas and Lannoye, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
Morgantini and Puerta, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0267/1999)
- PSE (B5-0285/1999)
- Verts/ALE (B5-0293/1999)
- PPE-DE (B5-0301/1999)

on the situation in Burundi

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its earlier resolutions on the situation in Burundi,
- A. whereas an internal conflict has been raging in Burundi since 1993, in which more than 200 000 people have been killed and over 800 000 people displaced, the majority of them facing famine and disease,
- B. whereas the conflict entered a new stage in May 1999 as the different militia groups intensified their military activities in several parts of the country as well as the capital Bujumbura, to which the army responded with clearing operations and further regrouping of people in so-called protected camps in a controversial attempt to separate the civilian

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PE 282.293/
PE 282.311/
PE 168.587/
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population from the rebels,

- C. appalled by the recent massacre of a large number of civilians in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, and the murder of nine people including a representative of Unicef and a WFP official in the province of Rutana, in south-east Burundi,
 - D. whereas on 25 October 1999 the UN special rapporteur for human rights in Burundi drew attention to the current human rights disaster in Burundi, caused by mass arbitrary executions committed by both militias and sectors of the army, illegal arrests, torture and unacceptable prison conditions,
 - E. whereas the need to bring stability to the region must be based on justice and the prosecution of those responsible for the ethnic violence,
 - F. whereas peace talks on Burundi have been under way in neighbouring Tanzania, but have so far failed to reach a comprehensive agreement,
 - G. expressing concern at the difficulties – due mainly to the absence of security - which most humanitarian organisations are experiencing in bringing aid to the people in need,
1. Condemns the acts of violence committed against civilians and the murder of nine civilians including a representative of Unicef and a WFP official in the province of Rutana, in south-east Burundi;
 2. Calls for an independent inquiry into the assassination of UN aid workers and Burundian civilians in the refugee camp in southern Burundi;
 3. Urges the Burundian authorities to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of the population and to comply with the guidelines laid down by the UN special rapporteur in order to improve the appalling human rights situation in the country;
 4. Calls on all parties to the conflict to engage in and conclude the peace process so that the EU can actively assist, together with other international agencies, in bringing about peace and stability in Burundi;
 5. Asks all the warring parties to show respect for fundamental human rights and to ensure that the humanitarian organisations have direct, unrestricted access to the places where there are refugees and displaced persons;
 6. Calls on the government of Burundi to permit the deployment of UN and/or OUA military observers for the protection of aid workers and the implementation of humanitarian aid;
 7. Re-emphasises the importance of holding, under UN and OAU auspices, an international conference on peace, security and stability in the Great Lakes Region, to be attended by all the governments in the region;

8. Insists that the neighbouring countries continue to support the peace process in Burundi by ensuring that their territory is not used in any way to threaten the security of the Burundian people;
9. Reiterates its call for an international embargo on the export of arms and munitions to Burundi and the Great Lakes Region as a whole, and calls on the Council and the Member States to honour the undertakings entered into as regards controlling arms exports to the region and preventing the illegal sale of such arms and the trafficking used to fund such activities;
10. Calls on the international community, and the EU in particular, to step up humanitarian aid to those in danger, displaced persons and Burundian refugees;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council, the Member States, the governments of Burundi, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania, the United Nations, the WFP, Unicef and the OAU.