

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

15 December 1999

B5-0343/1999 }
B5-0346/1999 }
B5-0371/1999 }
B5-0378/1999 }
B5-0384/1999 }

}RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Ferrer, Maij-Weggen, Giannakou, on behalf of the PPE Group

Gröner, Díez, Rodríguez Ramos, Sornosa, Van Lancker, Karamanou, Prets, on behalf of the PSE Group

Malmström, on behalf of the ELDR Group

Evans, Hautala, Sörensen, Auroi, Breyer, Buitenweg, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Morgantini, Eriksson, González Alvarez, Uca, Ainardi, Figueredo, Frahm, Manisco, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0343/1999)
- ELDR (B5-0346/1999)
- PPE-DE (B5-0371/1999)
- Verts/ALE (B5-0378/1999)
- GUE/NGL (B5-0384/1999)

on the situation in Afghanistan

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PE 282.410/
PE 282.413/
PE 282.434/
PE 282.441/
PE 282.447/ RC1
Or. PA

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Afghanistan,
 - having regard to the common position of the Council of 26 January 1998 on the situation in Afghanistan and the conditions facing women in Kabul,
 - having regard to the common position adopted by the Council on 15 November 1999,
- A. whereas the Taliban Government in Kabul has put into place a system of permanent and broad ranging repression of women in Afghanistan, such as the denial of employment and of access to most hospitals,
- B. having regard to the 'International Day for the prevention of Violence to Women' on 25 November 1999,
- C. whereas, only a few days before this date, the first public execution was held in Afghanistan in front of 4000 people, the victim being Mrs Zaarmena, the mother of seven children, accused on insufficient evidence of having killed her husband, and from whom, according to humanitarian organisations, a confession was extracted under torture,
- D. whereas when the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in 1996 women were subjected to extreme forms of psychological and physical repression, for example compliance with harsh dress codes, in addition to which they are not allowed to work, receive education or obtain medical assistance from general hospitals and suffer from numerous other forms of discrimination,
- E. having regard to numerous statements from ONG field workers and others involved in social aid work in Afghanistan; having regard to the extremely alarming increase in the number of cases of depression and suicide among women,
- F. whereas the Taliban have refused to allow NGOs to distribute aid to the Afghan people on a basis of equality of the sexes and have expelled them from Kabul,
- G. whereas the Taliban regime has been recognised by the Governments of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, and whereas Pakistan in particular has been an active supporter of the Taliban,
- H. having regard to the common position of the Council of 15 November 1999, stating that aircraft belonging to the Taliban will not be allowed to fly to or from the European Union and that for as long as the Taliban regime affords its protection to Osama bin Laden, its foreign assets will be frozen,

1. Vigorously condemns the Taliban regime which is imposing a policy of discriminatory violence against Afghan women, infringing their most fundamental rights;
2. Expresses its concern at the situation in a country where men have absolute power of life or death over the womenfolk in their family, subjecting them to brutal forms of and impose brutal punishment with the endorsement of Taliban law;
3. Condemns firmly the execution of Mrs Zaarmena and reiterates its opposition to capital punishment;
4. Expresses its shock at reports that torture is being used by the Taliban regime to obtain confessions leading to execution;
5. Stresses that the gender-apartheid imposed by the Taliban runs contrary to both the principles of Islamic society and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
6. Calls on the UN to consider more active measures at international level to assist Afghan women;
7. Is disappointed that the refusal of the Taliban government to extradite bin Laden incites a stronger reaction from the European Council than the appalling human rights violations against the millions of women in Afghanistan and urges the Council to maintain the adopted restrictive measures, independent of the outcome of the bin Laden case, for as long as the Taliban regime continues its policy of unacceptable discrimination against women;
8. Calls on the Member States to continue to withhold recognition from the Taliban regime until it respects human rights and ends discrimination against women;
9. Reiterates its call on the States that have recognised the Taliban regime to isolate it diplomatically and to withdraw any kind of support to it;
10. Calls on the Taliban to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered to Kabul without restrictions on the basis of gender, so as to enable the return of NGOs and Commission humanitarian aid to the Afghan capital, whose population has to endure particularly arduous conditions during winter;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the United Nations Secretary-General, the governments of the United States, Uzbekistan, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Tadjikistan, Russia and India, and to the Northern Alliance and the Taliban.