

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

*Session document*

17 May 2000

B5-0432/2000}  
B5-0444/2000}  
B5-0448/2000}  
B5-0456/2000}  
B5-0465/2000

}RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure

van Hecke and Ferrer on behalf of the PPE-DE Group  
Sauquillo, Schori and van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group  
van den Bos, Malmström and Thors on behalf of the ELDR Group  
Maes, Lucas, Rod, Schörling and Boumediene-Thiery on behalf of the Verts/ALE  
Group  
Morgantini, Sjöstedt and Manisco on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0432/2000)
- Verts/ALE (B5-0444/2000)
- PSE (B5-0448/2000)
- PPE-DE (B5-0456/2000)
- GUE/NGL (B5-0465/2000)

on the situation in Sierra Leone

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PE 291.828}  
PE 291.840}  
PE 291.844}  
PE 291.852}  
PE 291.861} RC1

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## European Parliament resolution on the situation in Sierra Leone

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the conflicts in Africa and the situation in Sierra Leone,
  - having regard to its resolution on the safety of humanitarian aid workers,
  - having regard to the EU Presidency statement on Sierra Leone of 5 May 2000,
- A. whereas the attacks by the RUF (Revolutionary United Front) on the United Nations peacekeeping forces are an international crime and represent a violation of the Lomé accord signed on 7 July 1999,
- B. whereas the conflict has claimed thousands of victims and is creating waves of refugees and huge suffering for the civilian population, thus preventing access by the population to international aid and triggering anew the recruitment of child soldiers,
- C. whereas the United Kingdom has decided to deploy ground forces to protect the capital, Freetown, while Nigeria and other African countries are involved in the UN contingent,
- D. whereas UNAMSIL's mandate, revised by the Security Council (resolution no. 1289/2000) authorises UNAMSIL to take all action necessary to perform its duties; whereas these include, *inter alia*, facilitating access to humanitarian aid and protecting the vulnerable civilian population,
- E. whereas the presence of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone was requested by all parties to the Lomé negotiations; whereas the objective of this presence is to establish peace and secure the disarmament of the RUF,
- F. whereas one of the conditions imposed by the RUF in the Lomé peace negotiations was an amnesty for those guerrillas who waged a brutal campaign in January 1999; whereas this condition was granted subject to the disarmament of the guerrilla forces,
- G. whereas international law makes no provision for amnesties for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law,
- H. whereas Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the world in spite of its significant

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natural resources, most of which are controlled by the RUF and are being used to finance the conflict,

- I. whereas some neighbouring countries, including Burkina Faso, Liberia and Togo, are reported to be connected with the smuggling of RUF-controlled diamond resources, and to be actively contributing to the destabilisation of Sierra Leone by providing illicit assistance to the rebels,
- J. whereas thousands of children have been actively involved in the violence as child soldiers, while others have had their arms amputated in a massive campaign orchestrated by the RUF, which has created some 10 000 amputees in the country,
  1. Strongly condemns the criminal actions of the RUF against the civilian population, the killing of at least two UN peace-keepers and four civilians in two separate incidents, and the situation whereby approximately 300 UNAMSIL peace-keepers are being held hostage;
  2. Urges the UN and its Member States to speed up the deployment of the remaining UN peace-keepers authorised by the Security Council before the planned deadline of July 2000 and to consider sending a Rapid Intervention Force to Sierra Leone, as proposed by the UN Secretary-General;
  3. Calls on the guerillas to immediately surrender their weapons, to refrain from using force against the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), and to take part in discussions to resolve their differences with the Government of Sierra Leone;
  4. Condemns the alleged involvement of neighbouring countries, namely Burkina Faso, Liberia and Togo, in the smuggling of RUF-controlled diamonds and in providing assistance to the rebels;
  5. Calls on the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, the European Union and the European Commission to take appropriate measures against diamond trafficking, which fuels the war, and to protect the civilian population, which is bearing the brunt of the civil war;
  6. Calls on the RUF forces and their leaders, Foday Sankoh and Sam Bockarie, to release immediately the members of UNAMSIL, to recognise the constitutional government of Sierra Leone and to respect the UNAMSIL operations in the framework of the peace process launched in July 1999;
  7. Urges the surrounding countries to refrain from any action liable to contribute to the continuation of the war in Sierra Leone and to support the regional peace-building efforts in the framework of the OAU and Ecowas;
  8. Calls on the European Union to work with the OAU to prevent the conflict spreading to other countries in the grip of instability in the region;

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9. Demands the release of all abducted children taking part in this conflict;
10. Calls on the Commission to mobilise the resources necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leone, and to launch a special programme for the rehabilitation of former child soldiers and to provide assistance for amputees;
11. Considers that rebel fighters and all other perpetrators of human rights violence should be held accountable for their actions and should be brought to justice;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Governments of Liberia, Burkina Faso and Togo, the Government of Sierra Leone and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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