

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

16 May 2000

B5-0434/2000 }
B5-0442/2000 }
B5-0454/2000 }
B5-0458/2000 }
B5-0467/2000 }
B5-0473/2000 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

by the following Members:

Posselt on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

Schori, Sakellariou and Linkohr on behalf of the PSE Group

Haarder on behalf of the ELDR Group

Isler-Beguín, Kreissl-Dorfler, Wuori and McKenna on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Krivine, Seppänen, Vinci and Cossuta on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Collins and Ribeiro e Castro on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing motions by:

- ELDR (B5-0434/2000)
- UEN (B5-0442/2000)
- PSE (B5-0454/2000)
- PPE-DE (B5-0458/2000)

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PE 291.830}
PE 291.838}
PE 291.850}
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- GUE/NGL (B5-0467/2000)
- Verts/ALE (B5-0473/2000)

on the Philippines

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Philippines,
 - having regard to the visit of the High Representative of the EU, Mr Javier Solana, to the Philippines,
 - having regard to the declaration of the EU Presidency of 7 May condemning the hostage-taking,
- A. whereas political tension has existed on the southern island of Mindanao and neighbouring islands since the 1970s and has intensified in recent months,
 - B. whereas sporadic peace talks between the Philippine Government and the largest armed Islamic separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have continued to falter, amid hostilities on both sides,
 - C. whereas in January 2000, President Estrada announced an extension (until the end of June) of the deadline for the conclusion of the peace talks,
 - D. whereas on 1 May the MILF announced that negotiations would be suspended indefinitely and blamed the government for an escalation in military attacks,
 - E. whereas armed opposition groups and other vigilante groups in Mindanao have been responsible, in recent years, for human rights abuses, including hostage-taking and killings,
 - F. whereas elements within the Philippine armed forces have also committed human rights violations in the context of counter-insurgency operations, including extra-judicial executions, torture, “disappearances” and indiscriminate killings of civilians,
 - G. whereas the Abu Sayyaf group, one of the two armed opposition groups fighting for a separate Islamic State, is responsible for the kidnapping of 21 people from the remote resort island of Sipadan in eastern Malaysia,
 - H. whereas most of those abducted are Malaysians, but they also include 7 European citizens – 2 French, 3 Germans and 2 Finns – as well as 2 South Africans, a Lebanese and 2 Filipinos,
 - I. welcoming the rescue of a number of hostages abducted from two schools in March in Basilan but deeply angered at the discovery of the bodies of two of their teachers who had been brutally murdered and concerned about the continued holding of about eight of the

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remaining hostages,

- J. in the firm conviction that taking civilian hostages is an appalling abuse of human rights,
1. Strongly condemns the kidnappings and calls on those responsible to release all hostages immediately;
 2. Sympathises with the families of the hostages;
 3. Welcomes the decision by the European Union to send its High Representative on a humanitarian mission to inquire into the situation of the hostages and to seek a swift and peaceful solution to the kidnapping;
 4. Calls on the kidnappers belonging to the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf to release all the hostages without delay and immediately make it possible for them to receive adequate medical care;
 5. Calls for efforts to be continued also to secure the early and safe release of the people, mostly children, who are still being held in Basilan province by other members of the Abu Sayyaf group;
 6. Supports the Philippine Government in its efforts to carry out its duty to bring the holding of the hostages to a peaceful end as swiftly as possible by means of negotiations, without endangering the hostages, and asks the Council and the Commission to assist the Government of the Philippines to this end;
 7. Recalls its resolutions of 13 December 1990, 17 July 1997 and 14 January 1999 in the hope that political and economic reforms will consolidate democracy in the country and increase prosperity in order to bring peace to the country;
 8. Welcomes in this context the appeal by the Archbishop of Manila to President Estrada to finally initiate socio-economic reforms;
 9. Calls on the Council and the Commission to assist the Government of the Philippines by implementing a long-term assistance programme aimed at easing the tensions in the southern island of Mindanao and the neighbouring islands;
 10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative of the EU, the governments of the applicant states and the Government of the Philippines.

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