

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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4 April 2001

B5-0265/2001 }
B5-0273/2001 }
B5-0281/2001 }
B5-0288/2001 }
B5-0299/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Maria Martens and Thomas Mann on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Jean-Claude Fruteau and Erika Mann on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Nelly Maes and Marie Anne Isler Béguin on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Lucio Manisco, Konstantinos Alyssandrakis and Alexandros Alavanos on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Olivier Dupuis, Marco Pannella, Emma Bonino, Maurizio Turco, Gianfranco Dell'Alba, Marco Cappato and Benedetto Della Vedova

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0265/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0273/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0281/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0288/2001),
- ELDR (B5-0299/2001),

on the human rights situation in Pakistan

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PE 303.088}
PE 303.096}
PE 303.104}
PE 303.599}
PE 303.610} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the human rights situation in Pakistan

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas since the October 1999 coup General Pervez Musharraf has moved Pakistan further away from the rule of law and respect for human rights,
 - B. whereas on 23 March 2001, Pakistan's National Day, many civil rights activists were arrested - among them Nawadzada Nasrullah Khan, leader of the Alliance for the Revival of Democracy -, placed under house arrest, or prohibited from taking part in rallies aimed at protesting against restrictions on political and civic activities,
 - C. whereas the total number of arrests is unknown, but may well be above 1000, mainly in Lahore,
 - D. whereas many detainees appear not to be held on any formal grounds and most are detained under provisions of the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance,
 - E. whereas these arrests took place just before the second series of local elections, in which political parties are not being allowed to participate,
 - F. whereas this is the largest wave of arrests by the military authorities directed against the political parties since the military took power in 1999,
 - G. whereas this action is aimed at repressing democratic aspirations and preventing the political parties from carrying out their legitimate activity,
 - H. whereas this action casts doubt on the genuineness of the military regime's professed intention of restoring democracy,
 - I. whereas the Pakistan Supreme Court has ordered the government to hold a general election no later than October 2002,
 - J. Whereas in his Pakistan Day message General Musharraf called for solidarity and unity and declared that 'a social order free from exploitation, discrimination and justice cannot be established without the active support of the people',
 - K. Whereas on 20 March 2001 the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group expressed 'concern over the harassment of political parties, including the restrictions imposed on democratic activities, processes and institutions and the detention of persons without due process of law' and repeated the view that 'there was no justification for delaying parliamentary elections',
- 1. Condemns the arbitrary arrests of political leaders and activists;
 - 2. Urges the Pakistani authorities to release all the detainees immediately;

3. Calls for the re-establishment of the rule of law and democratic freedoms in Pakistan and the holding of free, plural and transparent elections; urges the government of General Musharraf to hold elections at the provincial and national levels in the near future;
4. Notes with dismay that the assertions by General Musharraf in his speech are in absolute contradiction with the police actions of barring the Pakistan Day rallies and arresting such a huge number of civil rights campaigners;
5. Urges the government of Pakistan, in particular, to rescind the order which bans all political meetings in public places, strikes and processions;
6. Calls on the Pakistan military junta to ensure that individuals are not persecuted for exercising their protected right to freedom of expression;
7. Reiterates its call on the military junta to stop all forms of support to the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and to fight against fundamentalist groups in Pakistan while also ensuring security and equal treatment for religious minorities and women;
8. Reminds Pakistan of the importance that the EU attaches to respect for human rights as an integral part of its external relations and of any cooperation agreement;
9. Reiterates its call on the Commission to institute cooperation programmes offering active support to NGOs in the human rights field;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government and Parliament of Pakistan, the SAARC and the Commonwealth.