

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

4 July 2001

B5-0482/2001 }
B5-0488/2001 }
B5-0499/2001 }
B5-0507/2001 }
B5-0514/2001 }
B5-0521/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Hartmut Nassauer, Bernd Posselt and Hanja Maij-Weggen on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Jules Maaten on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Patricia McKenna and Matti Wuori on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Pernille Frahm, Jonas Sjöstedt and Luisa Morgantini on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Bastiaan Belder on behalf of the EDD Group
- Olivier Dupuis, Marco Pannella, Emma Bonino, Gianfranco Dell’Alba, Benedetto Della Vedova, Marco Cappato and Maurizio Turco

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- EDD (B5-0482/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0488/2001),
- PSE (B5-0499/2001),
- ELDR (B5-0507/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0514/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0521/2001),

on religious freedom in Vietnam

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PE 307.304}
PE 307.310}
PE 307.321}
PE 307.329}
PE 307.336}
PE 307.343} RC1

European Parliament resolution on religious freedom in Vietnam

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Vietnam of 19 January 1995, 15 May 1997, 16 March 1998 and 16 November 2000,
- A. whereas Vietnam as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) has to uphold freedom of religious belief and worship as enshrined in its Article 18,
- B. whereas Article 70 of Vietnam's constitution guarantees freedom of faith and religion,
- C. concerned at the further increase in tension between the government and the religious communities in Vietnam as well as the many instances of persecution of religious leaders, following the ninth Congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party from 19 to 22 April 2001,
- D. concerned at the criticism expressed in March 1999 on religious persecution in Vietnam by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, Mr Abdelfattah Amor,
- E. having regard to the persecution of leaders of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam, including its Patriarch, the Very Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, detained without charge or trial for 20 years, set free in 1997, but still not allowed to leave his place of detention, and the Venerable Thich Quang Do, amnestied in 1998 after 20 years of detention, but again put under a two-year sentence of administrative detention after he tried to arrange for medical attention for the ailing Patriarch,
- F. having regard to the persecution suffered by Catholics, in particular the imprisonment of Father Nguyen Van Ly on 17 May for having practised his religion following a ban issued by the Vietnamese authorities,
- G. having regard to the persecution of all followers of so-called non-recognised churches, notably the Cao Dai Church, the Hoa Hao Church and Protestant Churches,
- H. having regard to the violent State repression in February 2001 of a massive protest by ethnic minorities of the high plains of central Vietnam, who were protesting against the confiscation of their ancestral lands, religious persecution and the ban on their conversion to Protestantism,
- I. whereas respect for human rights and democratic principles is an essential element in the 1995 cooperation agreement between the European Union and Vietnam,
- 1. Calls on the Government of Vietnam to implement the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, Abdelfattah Amor, and in particular to guarantee the right of all people in Vietnam to practise the religion of their choice, including the right to freedom of worship and the right of assembly;

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2. Calls for the release of all prisoners of conscience, especially the Very Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, the Venerable Thich Quang Do and Father Nguyen Van Ly, and for them to be granted freedom of movement;
3. Calls on the Vietnamese authorities to respect the religious freedoms of Buddhists, Catholics, Protestants as well as all other so-called non-recognised churches and to stop all anti-religious campaigns throughout the country;
4. Calls on the Vietnamese Government to ensure the "safe, dignified and voluntary" return of those who fled from the high plains of central Vietnam to Cambodia, as agreed with the UNHCR, while guaranteeing freedom of faith and worship;
5. Calls on the ambassadors to Vietnam of the Member States and the European Union to follow developments in this connection with the closest attention and to report to it in the framework of relations between the Council, Commission and Parliament;
6. Asks its Delegation for relations with the Member States of Asean, South-East Asia and the Republic of Korea to plan a visit to Vietnam to meet religious leaders of all confessions, especially those who have been imprisoned;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the representatives of the Vietnamese Unified Buddhist Church, the Cao Dai Church, the Hoa Hao Church, the Catholic Church and the Protestant Churches.