

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

*Session document*

3 October 2001

B5-0620/2001 }  
B5-0628/2001 }  
B5-0636/2001 }  
B5-0646/2001 }  
B5-0658/2001 }  
RC1

## **JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

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

- Hartmut Nassauer and Bernd Posselt 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 Didier Rod on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Jonas Sjöstedt and Pernille Frahm on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Mariotto Segni on behalf of the UEN Group
- and Olivier Dupuis, Marco Pannella, Emma Bonino, Maurizio Turco, Marco Cappato, Benedetto Della Vedova, Gianfranco Dell'Alba and Claudio Martelli

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0620/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0628/2001),
- UEN (B5-0636/2001),
- PSE (B5-0646/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0658/2001),

on freedom in Vietnam

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PE 309.513 }  
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## European Parliament resolution on 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,
- having regard to its resolution of 5 July 2001 on religious freedom in Vietnam,
- A. whereas Vietnam is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR),
- B. whereas respect for human rights and democratic principles is an essential element in the 1995 cooperation agreement between the European Union and Vietnam,
- C. whereas Amnesty International reports that, even after revision of the criminal code in December 99/January 2000, twenty-nine offences ranging from offences against national security to economic crimes remain punishable by death and that one hundred and twelve death sentences and 12 executions were recorded in 2000 while the true figures are believed to be much higher,
- D. whereas dozens if not hundreds of prisoners of conscience and possible prisoners of conscience continue to be detained for their political beliefs and religious affiliations, and many of those are known or believed to be elderly and in poor health; whereas among them is Professor Nguyen Dinh Huy, the founder and president of the "Movement to Unite the People and Build Democracy", who continues to be held in prison camp Z30A, in the Dong Nai province,
- E. whereas Human Rights Watch reported in September about the largest and most systematic effort to intimidate Vietnamese dissidents in a long time: on 5 and 6 September at least 15 dissidents were detained and interrogated, including Pham Que Duong, Hoang Tien, Hoang Minh Chinh, Nguyen Vu Binh and Duong Hung; Tran Van Khue and Nguyen Thanh Giang have also been detained, at least temporarily, since 6 September,
- F. having regard to the persecution of business and foreign investors, notably the case of a Dutch citizen, Binh Vinh Trinh,
- G. whereas, at its August 2001 session, the United Nations Committee on Racial Discrimination highlighted a series of mistreatments against minority groups as well as indigenous people, namely the Montagnards living in the Central Highlands of southern Vietnam,
- H. whereas 14 members of this ethnic minority have been sentenced for organising demonstrations bringing together thousands of people in the Dak Lak province,

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- I. whereas human rights organisations continue to receive no response from the government to correspondence about human rights violations, whereas domestic human rights monitoring is not permitted and whereas no access has been given to independent human rights monitors,
- J. whereas 'offences of opinion' remain punishable,
- K. whereas foreign journalists are officially requested to seek advance approval for travel outside the capital as well as to apply to the foreign ministry four days in advance for any interview, by telephone or in person, with a Vietnamese national,
1. Reminds the Vietnamese authorities again that freedom of opinion and of the press are necessary conditions for Vietnam's economic and social development,
  2. Reiterates its demand that the Vietnamese authorities respect religious freedom and take concrete steps to allow freedom of association and worship;
  3. Urges the Vietnamese authorities to repeal Administrative Detention Decree 51/CP, which allows the detention of dissidents for up to two years without trial;
  4. Calls on the Vietnamese authorities to authorise independent press bodies and to allow domestic human rights monitoring, as well as to give access to independent international human rights monitors;
  5. Reminds the Vietnamese authorities that a functioning democratic society requires an active civil society;
  6. Recalls that the protection of private property and legal security are absolutely essential to successful economic activity, and that corruption, questionable legal procedures and cases such as that of Binh Vinh Trinh hinder economic and social progress and scare off foreign investment;
  7. Calls on all foreign donors to protest against the September detentions and urges the Vietnamese authorities to continue on a path of reform;
  8. Calls on the Commission and the Council and every Member State to do their utmost, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to ensure the full enforcement of fundamental human rights for Vietnam's indigenous Montagnards;

9. Calls on the Vietnamese authorities to prepare legislation to abolish the death penalty and to ratify the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the worldwide abolition of the death penalty;
10. Calls on the Vietnamese authorities to ensure that, until the formal abolition of the death penalty, a moratorium on executions is established and all remaining death sentences are commuted;
11. Calls on the ambassadors of the Member States and the European Union to Vietnam to follow developments in this connection with the closest attention and to report to Parliament in the framework of relations between the Council, the Commission and Parliament,
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government and Parliament of Vietnam.