

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2004

Session document

15 May 2002

B5-0287/2002 }
B5-0291/2002 }
B5-0298/2002 }
B5-0304/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Charles Tannock, Thomas Mann, Maria Martens and Vitaliano Gemelli on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Jannis Sakellariou and Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Luigi Vinci and Esko Olavi Seppänen on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Liam Hyland, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B5-0287/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0291/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0298/2002),
- PSE (B5-0304/2002),

on India

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PE 318.652}
PE 318.656}
PE 318.663}
PE 318.669} RC1

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European Parliament resolution on India

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on India,
 - having regard to the General Affairs Council meeting of 15 April 2002,
- A. appalled by the recent sectarian violence which took place in the Indian state of Gujarat and has claimed more than 900 lives, according to available figures,
 - B. aware that many thousands remain in relief camps unable to return to their homes,
 - C. noting that most of the dead are Muslims and that the escalation of violence was a direct consequence of reprisals against Muslims following the burning alive of 58 Hindus in a train in February 2002,
 - D. whereas numerous independent inquiries by human rights organisations confirm that state officials and police of Gujarat were involved in the clashes,
 - E. taking note of the announcement by the Indian Government that an assistance package of about € 35 million will be set up in favour of the victims and families of this violence,
 - F. mindful that Article 25 of the Indian Union Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and that successive Indian Governments have committed themselves to protect minority ethnic and religious rights,
 - G. appreciating that the incidents in Gujarat were condemned by the political leadership of the country and noting the open debate in the Indian Parliament on these matters by Government and opposition parties and the calls for the restoration of intercommunal harmony in Gujarat,
 - H. noting that the trouble in the state of Gujarat has not affected other parts of the Union, which testifies to the underlying strengths of India's democratic and tolerant society,
1. Condemns in the strongest possible way all the sectarian violence in India which followed the burning to death of 58 Hindu pilgrims on the train in Ghodra on 27 February by Muslim extremists and the ensuing violence in which Hindus indiscriminately targeted Muslims as reprisals;
 2. Sends condolences to the affected family members in both religious communities;
 3. Calls on the Government of India and the State Government of Gujarat to continue their investigations of the killings on all sides perpetrated in Gujarat effectively, independently and impartially and to bring those responsible to justice, irrespective of their position, religion, identity or political beliefs;

4. Calls on the Council and the Commission to explore with the Indian Government ways to support the civil society in Gujarat and to expand existing relief programmes to address the humanitarian needs of those displaced or dispossessed by the communal violence;
5. Calls on the European Commission to support the efforts of the Indian Government and to urgently come to the aid of all displaced people;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the Government and Parliament of India, and the Government and Parliament of Gujarat.