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12 June 2002

B5-0335/2002 }
B5-0343/2002 }
B5-0349/2002 }
B5-0359/2002 }
B5-0371/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Johan Van Hecke, Hanja Maij-Weggen and Bernd Posselt on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Marieke Sanders-ten Holte, Bob van den Bos and Lone Dybkjær on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Nelly Maes, Didier Rod, Marie Anne Isler Béguin and Caroline Lucas on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Fodé Sylla on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Niall Andrews on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0335/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0343/2002),
- UEN (B5-0349/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0359/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0371/2002),

on the recent massacre in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo

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PE 319.170}
PE 319.179}
PE 319.730}
PE 319.740}
PE 319.752} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the recent massacre in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),
 - having regard to the common position adopted by the Council on 29 January 2001 on the implementation of the Lusaka agreements and the peace process in the DRC,
 - having regard to the statements made by the President of the UN Security Council on 5 June 2002 and 24 May 2002 which strongly condemned the killings of and attacks against civilians and soldiers in Kisangani,
 - having regard to the EU Presidency statement of 23 May 2002 on the events in Kisangani,
 - having regard to United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1399 (2002), 1376 (2001) and 1341 (2001),
- A. whereas the massacre of almost 200 people in Kisangani in May 2002 was one of the bloodiest episodes of the war of aggression and occupation being waged in the east of the DRC,
- B. having regard to reprisals by DRC-Goma faction against the populace of Kisangani following the occupation of the town's radio station by armed members of the DRC-Originel (DRC-Goma dissidents) calling for the departure of the Rwandan occupying forces,
- C. having regard to the upsurge in intolerance and the rhetoric of ethnic hatred, mainly directed against the Tutsi minority in the east of the DRC and which was behind recent events in Kisangani where five ethnic Tutsis were burned alive at the behest of mutinous soldiers and armed individuals occupied the town's radio station to call for the departure of Rwandan occupying forces,
- D. whereas the three-and-a-half year conflict in the DRC has dramatically increased the rates of malnutrition and mortality in the DRC, with 70% of the people living in the war-affected areas having no access to health care or adequate food supplies,
- E. whereas the populace of Kisangani and the leaders of civil society have manifested their support for the partial agreement signed between the DRC government and the MLC with the approval of a large section of the unarmed opposition with a view to achieving a peaceful solution to the country's problems,

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- F. whereas two MONUC officials were expelled from Kisangani by DRC-Goma, and whereas the UN Security Council is demanding the demilitarisation of Kisangani and has condemned the attacks against MONUC,
 - G. whereas, according to the joint military commission set up by the Lusaka agreements, only Namibia has withdrawn its troops; stressing the need for the withdrawal from the DRC of the Ugandan, Zimbabwean and Angolan troops and the more than 4 000 Rwandan soldiers deployed in the east of the DRC; whereas all these forces are allied to one or other Congolese faction in the conflict, hence the need for them to withdraw,
 - H. whereas the inter-Congolese dialogue ended on 19 May 2002 in Sun City, South Africa, without a political agreement involving all parties; whereas, however, the Sun City agreement constitutes a major step towards the democratic transition of the country and the peaceful resolution of conflicts,
 - I. reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty of the DRC, including sovereignty over its natural resources; whereas most of the national parks affected by poaching, deforestation and the illegal mining of gold, diamonds, copper, cobalt and coltan are situated in the east of the DRC,
 - J. whereas the UN Security Council has adopted various resolutions calling for the demilitarisation of Kisangani and the withdrawal of foreign troops,
 - K. whereas the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is holding emergency hearings on 13 June 2002 after the Government of the DRC started legal action against Rwanda, following the country's alleged role in recent killings and human rights abuses, including the events in Kisangani, during a tragic civil war that, since August 1998, has claimed the lives of 3.5 million Congolese,
1. Condemns the resurgence of violence in the areas occupied by DRC-Goma, in particular the massacre in Kisangani, and the repression of the Congolese people by DRC-Goma members and Rwandan troops;
 2. Supports the call for a UN international committee of inquiry to investigate responsibility for the Kisangani massacres, and calls on the governor of the city of Kisangani, Jean-Pierre Birusa, to lift the ban on all public gatherings;
 3. Calls on DRC-Goma to respect the efforts by local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), churches and civil society to advocate human rights and the rule of law, and to guarantee the security of the international peace symposium to be organised by Mgr Monsengwo;
 4. Calls on all the parties in the DRC conflict to respect human rights, freedom of expression and movement and the right to property, and calls for the perpetrators of and

those who ordered the massacres to be brought to justice;

5. Welcomes the 'Political agreement on consensual management of the transition in the DRC', signed on 19 May 2002 between the DRC government, the MLC of Mr Jean-Pierre Bemba, DRC-ML, DRC-N and by most delegates representing unarmed opposition groups and civil society; supports the European Union Special Representative's efforts to bring the Alliance for the Protection of the inter-Congolese Dialogue, which includes DRC-Goma and five unarmed opposition parties, into this agreement;
6. Calls on all sides to endeavour to achieve a comprehensive and inclusive agreement to ensure a stable political transition, over a period of time acceptable to all parties, at the end of which free and democratic elections must be held;
7. Calls on the international community, and in particular the European Union, to bring pressure to bear on Rwanda to ensure that DRC-Goma immediately ends its harassment of United Nations officials;
8. Calls on the United Nations and the European Union to take the necessary steps to enforce the UN Security Council resolutions, in particular that regarding the demilitarisation of Kisangani;
9. Calls for the demilitarisation of Kisangani, the re-opening of the Congo river, the restoration of the unity of the DRC, and the establishment in eastern DRC of a 'curtain of troops' from the international community to stabilise its border with neighbouring countries;
10. Welcomes the deployment of UN troops to help monitor the cease-fire and urges the rapid launch of the next phase of the UN operation, involving the deployment of more troops to begin the programme of voluntary disarmament;
11. Calls for the disarmament and demobilisation of combatants and freedom of movement for persons and goods; whilst welcoming the fact that Namibia has withdrawn its troops from DRC territory, insists that all foreign forces in the DRC do the same in conformity with UN Security Council Resolution 1304;
12. Advocates the strengthening of the mandate of MONUC and strongly condemns the recent expulsion of two members of the MONUC peace-keeping force and a Belgian human rights official by DRC-Goma;
13. Urges all the parties to refrain from any offensive action during the process of disengagement and withdrawal of foreign forces; calls for respect for the territorial integrity of the DRC, expresses concern at recent reports of military operations in Kivu and supports the Security Council in calling for the demilitarisation of Kivu;

14. Condemns the widespread use of sexual violence against women and girls by soldiers and combatants on all sides, and urges all parties to stop the recruitment of child soldiers and ensure their demobilisation, rehabilitation and reintegration;
15. Calls on President Kabila and the transitional government to meet promises regarding democratic, legal and human rights reforms, which should include a moratorium on handing down death sentences, reform of the Court of Military Order and protection of the rights of human rights defenders;
16. Calls on the Council and Commission to work with international organisations like the United Nations World Food Programme and the UNDP to prepare a joint plan of action to reconstruct the DRC and to ensure that sufficient financial resources are budgeted for this process once peace is finally restored;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the EU Member States and applicant countries, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations, the African Union and the OECD, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Economic and Social Committee, the European Investment Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the Director-General of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Food Programme (WFP), and the governments of Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia.