

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

4 September 2002

B5-0471/2002 }
B5-0473/2002 }
B5-0480/2002 }
B5-0484/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Hugues Martin and Bernd Posselt on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pasqualina Napoletano, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Hannes Swoboda and Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Cecilia Malmström and Bob van den Bos on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Yasmine Boudjenah, Gérard Caudron and Luigi Vinci on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0471/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0473/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0480/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0484/2002),

on Egypt

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PE 322.943}
PE 322.945}
PE 322.952}
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European Parliament resolution on Egypt

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Egypt adopted in June 2001 and in July 2002,
- having regard to its resolution of 29 November 2001 on the conclusion of an association agreement with Egypt,

- A. whereas Dr Saad Eddin Ibrahim, of dual Egyptian and American nationality, Director of the Ibn Khaldoun Centre for Development Studies in Egypt, has again been sentenced in a second trial by the Egyptian Supreme State Security Court to seven years of imprisonment, on charges of accepting EU funds without prior official authorisation and embezzling them and disseminating false information harmful to the State's interest,
- B. whereas similar sentences were also passed on other staff of the Centre,
- C. whereas the State Security Court totally disregarded the affidavit issued by the European Commission clearing Dr Ibrahim, the Ibn Khaldoun Centre and the League of Egyptian Women Voters (HODA) of any fraudulent deeds in connection with the EC grants to both organisations which were at the core of the charges against Dr Ibrahim and his associates,
- D. recalling Commissioner Patten's statement of 30 July 2002, as well as the Presidency's declaration, which both condemned the sentencing of Prof. Ibrahim and several of his colleagues from the Ibn Khaldoun Centre,
- E. praising the continuous attention of the Presidency in Cairo and the visit paid to Dr Ibrahim in jail on 21 August, as well as the activity and attention of Member States and the Commission,
- F. stressing that Prof. Saad Eddin Ibrahim is 63 years old and in failing health due to a degenerative neurological disorder impeding the regular flow of oxygen to the deep recesses of his brain, and is thus in dire need of specialised medical treatment,
- G. whereas the development of the EU-Egypt relationship should follow the commonly agreed principles of the Barcelona Process and should be based on respect for human rights,
- H. highlighting the role of civil society in the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the Euro-Mediterranean region, with regard, in particular, to the values upon which the Barcelona process is based,
- 1. Expresses its concern at the sentencing of democracy advocate Professor Saad Eddin Ibrahim and his colleagues by the Egyptian State Security Court to a seven-year prison sentence on 29 July 2002, on the grounds of alleged misuse of EU funding which had been repeatedly

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denied by the Commission;

2. Expresses its deepest sympathy and support for Dr Ibrahim, his colleagues and the Ibn Khaldoun Centre;
3. Urges the Egyptian Government to remain within the confines of the international conventions ratified by Egypt, especially the Declaration on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders;
4. Calls on the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Mr Hosni Mubarak, to use his powers to obtain the release of Dr Ibrahim and his colleagues pending a fair and final judgment;
5. Calls on the Commission to make strong and urgent representations to the Egyptian authorities with a view to reaching a favourable outcome for Dr Saad Eddin Ibrahim in the context of the relations established by the association agreement;
6. Reaffirms the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership for the furtherance of the rule of law and human rights;
7. Urges the Commission to strengthen the MEDA democracy programmes in Egypt and make all efforts to support Egyptian civil society;
8. Calls on the Commission and on Egypt to ensure the participation of independent associations in the devising and implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean programmes, notably the MEDA Democracy programmes;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and the applicant countries, and the People's Assembly of Egypt.