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4 June 2003

B5-0297/2003 }
B5-0303/2003 }
B5-0305/2003 }
B5-0306/2003 }
B5-0310/2003 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Geoffrey Van Orden, Nirj Deva, Thomas Mann, Hanja Maij-Weggen and Lennart Sacrédeus on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg, Martin Schulz, Glenys Kinnock, Walter Veltroni and Fiorella Ghilardotti on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Patricia McKenna and Marie Anne Isler Béguin on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Marianne Eriksson, Fausto Bertinotti, Yasmine Boudjenah and Luisa Morgantini on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- GUE/NGL (B5-0297/2003),
- PSE (B5-0303/2003),
- PPE-DE (B5-0305/2003),
- ELDR (B5-0306/2003),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0310/2003),

on the arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma

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PE 332.970}
PE 332.976}
PE 332.978}
PE 332.979}
PE 332.983} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Burma and in particular its resolutions of 11 April 2002 and 13 March 2003,
 - having regard to the Council's Common Position 96/635/CFSP on Burma of 28 October 1996, as renewed and extended by Common Position 2003/297/CFSP of 28 April 2003,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 552/97 of 24 March 1997 temporarily withdrawing access to generalised tariff preferences from the Union of Myanmar,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2000 of 22 March 2000 prohibiting the sale, supply and export to Burma of equipment which might be used for internal repression or terrorism, and freezing the funds of certain persons related to important governmental functions in that country,
- A. whereas the dire political situation in Burma has deteriorated significantly in recent days,
- B. whereas Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD), was arrested on 31 May along with 19 other party members,
- C. recalling that Parliament awarded the Sakharov Prize for Human Rights to Aung San Suu Kyi, who has also won the Nobel Prize,
- D. whereas according to reports at least 70 people have been killed in the attack by the junta army and its supporters on Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in Upper Burma,
- E. whereas attackers beat up NLD members and shot them with catapults, and soldiers also opened fire, killing and wounding a large number of NLD members, and whereas there are reports that Aung San Suu Kyi suffered head injuries,
- F. concerned at the absence of information about the plight of Mr Tin Oo, vice-chairman of the LND, who was accompanying Aung San Suu Kyi,
- G. whereas the NLD's main offices throughout Burma have been closed by the ruling military State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and universities and colleges instructed to close,
- H. whereas almost exactly a year ago Aung San Suu Kyi was released after a long period under house arrest – a move welcomed at the time as a sign that the junta was ready for political reform,

- I. having regard to the political dialogue initiated under the auspices of the UN Special Envoy, Razil Ismael,
 - J. whereas his visit, scheduled for 6 June, could be called into question if he is not allowed an opportunity to meet Aung San Suu Kyi,
 - K. whereas more than 1000 people are still held in prison for political reasons,
1. Strongly condemns the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and other detained NLD members and demands their immediate release;
 2. Demands that the SDC immediately cease its practice of extrajudicial killings, systemic rape and political intimidation against the Burmese people;
 3. Reaffirms its strong commitment and full support for democratic, judicial and political change in Burma;
 4. Calls for the reopening of the NLD offices, and for the first credible steps towards the restoration of democracy in Burma to be taken;
 5. Calls for the immediate reopening of all universities in Burma;
 6. Calls on the Council to implement immediately the extension of the visa ban and assets freeze as agreed in its Common position of 28 April 2003, the implementation of which was suspended until 29 October 2003 in the hope, now clearly lost, of progress towards the restoration of democracy and human rights;
 7. Demands that the SPDC relinquish its grip on power and that elections be held under international supervision, without delay, and that the results of these elections be fully respected;
 8. Calls on the Council and the Commission to show their readiness, in collaboration with the UN, to help facilitate the National Reconciliation process in Burma;
 9. Calls upon ASEAN states to take urgent action to bring about change for the better in Burma before there is more loss of life and a further deterioration in the economic and political situation in the country;
 10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the ASEAN member states, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the UN Secretary General and the SPDC.