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Session document

11 February 2004

B5-0079/2004 }
B5-0082/2004 }
B5-0085/2004 }
B5-0095/2004 }
B5-0097/2004 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Hartmut Nassauer, Thomas Mann, Bernd Posselt and José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg, Karin Junker and Glyn Ford, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Graham R. Watson and Bob van den Bos, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Marie Anne Isler Béguin and Patricia McKenna, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Herman Schmid, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Emma Bonino, Marco Pannella, Gianfranco Dell’Alba, Olivier Dupuis, Marco Cappato and Maurizio Turco

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0079/2004),
- PSE (B5-0082/2004),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0085/2004),
- PPE-DE (B5-0095/2004),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0097/2004),

on Cambodia

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PE 341.213}
PE 341.216}
PE 341.226}
PE 342.363}
PE 342.365} RC1

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European Parliament resolution on Cambodia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Cambodia, and particularly to its resolutions of 13 March 2003 (P5_TA(2003)0103) and 3 July 2003 (P5_TA(2003)0339),
 - having regard to the EC-Cambodia Framework Cooperation Agreement of 1 November 1999,
 - having regard to the EC-Cambodia Strategy Paper 2000-2003,
 - having regard to the final report of the EU Election Observation Mission to Cambodia,
 - having regard to the statement of the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy on a Cambodia Tribunal,
 - having regard to the agreement between the UN and the Government of Cambodia concerning the creation of a special Cambodia war crimes tribunal,
 - having regard to the statement of the acting United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the killing of Cambodian trade union leader Chea Vichea,
 - having regard to Rule 50(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 22 January Chea Vichea, President of the Cambodian Free Trade Union of Workers and a founding member of the Sam Rainsy Party, was shot dead in broad daylight in downtown Phnom Penh,
- B. whereas Chea Vichea was the leader of a major trade union representing 38,000 of the country's 200,000 female textile workers, who are engaged in an industry which together with tourism is the country's most important resource,
- C. whereas the activist had been forced into hiding on several occasions as a result of death threats, and the government had failed to provide him with protection,
- D. whereas this murder is the latest in a series of assassinations of high-profile opposition supporters over the past year, and those responsible have not so far been brought to justice, making 2003 the most violent year since the 1998 elections,
- E. whereas this climate of political violence is favoured by the stalemate in the political situation since the general elections of 27 July 2003, which failed to produce the two-thirds majority required by the Constitution to form a government, despite the King's efforts to form a government of national unity,
- F. whereas on 4 February Cambodia celebrated the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Khmer Rouge,

- G. whereas the setting up of the war crimes tribunal has finally been agreed between the Government of Cambodia and the UN but still awaits ratification by the Cambodian Parliament,
- H. whereas the former Prime Minister Khieu Sampan is the first leading Khmer Rouge to have acknowledged, recently, that genocide took place under Pol Pot's rule, despite which almost all surviving leaders of that time remain free, and none has so far been put on trial,
1. Strongly condemns the murder of Chea Vichea, and deplores all acts of political violence in Cambodia;
 2. Regrets that the police investigations have so far been unsuccessful, despite the arrest of two suspects, and calls for everything possible to be done to find those who planned and carried out the murder of Chea Vichea, and other murders and murder attempts against prominent opposition activists;
 3. Believes that such violence puts at risk the rights of all Cambodians and jeopardises progress towards a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Cambodia;
 4. Calls on the government of Hun Sen to put an end to the ongoing impunity in the country and to bring the murderers of Chea Vichea and other victims of political assassinations to justice;
 5. Urges the leaders of the political parties represented in the parliament to negotiate seriously and without preconditions towards the formation of a government, in order to put in place the much-needed reforms and law enforcement measures which would efficiently protect political and human rights activists from persecution;
 6. Urges that the parliament of Cambodia be enabled to take up its functions, not least in order to ratify the agreement between the UN and the government of Cambodia concerning the creation of a special Cambodia war crimes tribunal as soon as possible;
 7. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member State governments to raise the concerns about the assassination of representatives of the political opposition and the existing impunity with the Cambodian government;
 8. Reiterates its concern about the child prostitution in the country and the trafficking in human beings to, within and from Cambodia for purposes of forced labour, including prostitution and begging, as well as adoption;
 9. Suggests that an ad-hoc EU delegation visit Cambodia as soon as possible to evaluate the country's political situation;
 10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Secretary-General of the UN, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the governments of the Asean member states, the Government of Cambodia, King Sihanouk, and the Funcinpec and Sam Rainsy Parties.