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Session document

19.11.2008

B6-0608/2008 }
B6-0609/2008 }
B6-0610/2008 }
B6-0611/2008 }
B6-0612/2008 }
B6-0613/2008 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure, by

- Ioannis Kasoulides and Mario Mauro, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pasqualina Napoletano, Véronique De Keyser, Proinsias De Rossa and Jamila Madeira, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Chris Davies and Marios Matsakis, on behalf of the ALDE Group
- Ryszard Czarnecki, Ewa Tomaszewska, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Roberta Angelilli and Eugenijus Maldeikis, on behalf of the UEN Group
- Hélène Flautre, Margrete Auken, David Hammerstein, Jill Evans and Caroline Lucas, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Luisa Morgantini and Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ALDE (B6-0608/2008)
- Verts/ALE (B6-0609/2008)
- PSE (B6-0610/2008)
- GUE/NGL (B6-0611/2008)
- UEN (B6-0612/2008)
- PPE-DE (B6-0613/2008)

on the case of the al-Kurd family

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European Parliament resolution on the case of the al-Kurd family

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East,
 - having regard to the report drawn up by its ad hoc delegation to Israel and the Palestinian Territories (30 May - 2 June 2008) and its conclusions,
 - having regard to the Fourth Geneva Convention,
 - having regard to the relevant UN resolutions,
 - having regard to the EU-Israel Association Agreement, and in particular Article 2 thereof,
 - having regard to the declaration issued by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on 10 November 2008 on the destruction of houses in East Jerusalem,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, on the night of Sunday, 9 November 2008, members of the Israeli police and armed forces evicted the al-Kurd family from their home in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem where they have lived for more than 50 years; whereas, immediately afterwards, they allowed settlers to enter the family's house and then sealed off the area,
- B. whereas this eviction was carried out on the basis of an order issued by the Israeli Supreme Court on 16 July 2008 following long and controversial legal proceedings before Israeli courts and authorities,
- C. whereas the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has declared that it will continue to offer the family assistance,
- D. emphasising the fact that the eviction took place despite international objections; whereas the US has raised the issue with the Israeli authorities; whereas this decision paves the way for the takeover of 26 more houses in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem, with 26 other families targeted for eviction; having regard to the political ramifications of this matter for the future status of East Jerusalem,
- E. drawing attention to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the fact that the international community has not recognised Israeli sovereignty over East Jerusalem,
- F. whereas a European Parliament delegation visited the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood on 3 November 2008 and had the opportunity to meet the al-Kurd family,
1. Expresses its deep concern at the eviction of the al-Kurd family, the recent destruction of the houses of Palestinian families by the Israeli authorities in several areas of East Jerusalem and the possible serious consequences of these measures;

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2. Points out that these operations, which seriously affect the lives of the residents of these areas, contravene international law, and calls on the Israeli authorities to put an end to them as soon as possible;
3. Points out, whilst acknowledging the independence of the Israeli judiciary within the internationally recognised borders of the State of Israel, that under international law East Jerusalem is not subject to the jurisdiction of Israeli courts;
4. Calls for the al-Kurd family's property to be returned to it immediately;
5. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the international community, including the Quartet, to make all possible efforts to protect Palestinian residents in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood and other areas of East Jerusalem and calls on the Quartet to play a more active role in this direction;
6. Reiterates its call to the Israeli authorities immediately to halt any expansion of settlements and the building of the security fence beyond Israel's 1967 borders, actions which are contrary to international law and are undermining peace efforts;
7. Affirms that such actions can only damage the chances of reaching a peace agreement between Palestinians and Israelis; urges Israel to refrain from all unilateral measures that may pre-empt the result of the final status negotiations, particularly in Jerusalem;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Quartet Special Envoy for the Middle East, the Israeli Government, the Knesset, the President of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council.