

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

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B6-0121/2009 }
B6-0122/2009 }
B6-0123/2009 }
B6-0124/2009 }
B6-0125/2009 }
B6-0126/2009 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Bernd Posselt, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Tunne Kelam and Charles Tannock, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pasqualina Napoletano, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Jules Maaten, Marielle De Sarnez and Marios Matsakis, on behalf of the ALDE Group
- Eoin Ryan, Inese Vaidere, Ewa Tomaszewska, Konrad Szymański, Gintaras Didžiokas and Adam Bielan, on behalf of the UEN Group
- Frithjof Schmidt and Raúl Romeva i Rueda, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Kartika Tamara Liotard and Willy Meyer Pleite, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B6-0121/2009)
- PSE (B6-0122/2009)
- GUE/NGL (B6-0123/2009)
- ALDE (B6-0124/2009)
- UEN (B6-0125/2009)
- Verts/ALE (B6-0126/2009)

on the Philippines

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European Parliament resolution on the Philippines

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Declaration of 15 September 2008 by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the situation in Mindanao,
 - having regard to the appeal issued by the Ambassadors of the European Union and the United States of America and the Australian Embassy's deputy head of mission on 29 January 2009,
 - having regard to the third session of the Tripartite Review of the implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) from 11 to 13 March 2009,
 - having regard to the Hague Joint Declaration by the GRP and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) of 1992 and the First and Second Oslo Joint Statements of 2004,
 - having regard to the Commission's Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 for the Philippines, the programme of support to the Peace Process under the Stability Instrument and the negotiations for a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the Philippines,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the Philippines, notably that of 26 April 2007, and reaffirming its support for the peace negotiations between the GRP and NDFP as expressed in its resolutions of 18 July 1997 and 14 January 1999,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas several armed groups and notably the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have been combating government troops in the south of the country since 1969, in one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies,
- B. whereas the conflict between the GRP and the Communist insurgents of the NDFP has claimed more than 120 000 lives and sporadic violence has continued despite a 2003 ceasefire and peace talks,
- C. whereas hostilities between government forces and the MILF in Mindanao resumed in August 2008 after the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the Memorandum of Agreement between the MILF and the GRP on the Ancestral Domain, which would have given substantial autonomy to the Bangsamoro nation,
- D. whereas the renewed fighting has killed over one hundred and displaced approximately 300 000 people, many of whom are still in evacuation centres,
- E. whereas Malaysia, the peace facilitator, withdrew its ceasefire monitors from Mindanao in

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April 2008 due to the lack of progress in the peace process, but is willing to reconsider its role if the GRP clarifies its negotiating position,

- F. whereas peace talks between the GRP and the NDFP have stalled since 2004 and whereas the Norwegian Government has made great efforts to encourage both sides to resume formal talks,
 - G. whereas hundreds of activists, trade unionists, journalists and religious leaders in the Philippines have been killed or abducted since 2001 and the GRP denies any involvement of the security forces and the army in these political killings, despite ample evidence to the contrary,
 - H. whereas there were several cases in 2008 where local courts found the arrest and detention of activists to be unlawful and ordered their release but those same people were subsequently rearrested and charged with rebellion or murder,
 - I. whereas the judiciary in the Philippines is not independent, while lawyers and judges are also subject to harassment and killings and whereas witness vulnerability makes it impossible to effectively investigate criminal offences and prosecute those responsible for them,
 - J. whereas in the case of most of these extrajudicial killings no formal criminal investigation has been opened and the perpetrators remain unpunished despite many government claims that it has adopted measures to stop the killings and bring their perpetrators to justice,
 - K. whereas in April 2008 the UN Human Rights Council examined the situation in the Philippines and stressed the impunity of those responsible for extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances but the GRP rejected recommendations for a follow-up report,
 - L. whereas in order to put an end to abductions and extrajudicial killings it is necessary to address the economic, social and cultural root causes of violence in the Philippines,
1. Expresses its grave concern about the hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people in Mindanao, calls on the GRP and the MILF to do all in their power to bring about a situation which allows people to return home, and calls for enhanced national and international action to protect and to work for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons;
 2. Believes strongly that the conflict can only be resolved through dialogue and that the resolution of this longstanding insurgency is essential for the sake of the overall development of the Philippines;
 3. Calls on the GRP to urgently resume peace negotiations with the MILF and to clarify the status and future of the Memorandum of Agreement after the Supreme Court Ruling; welcomes the GRP's announcement that it intends to drop preconditions for the resumption of talks;
 4. Welcomes the talks between the GRP and the NDFP with Norwegian facilitation in Utrecht in November 2008 and hopes that, in this case likewise, formal negotiations can rapidly

resume; calls on the parties to comply with their bilateral agreements, to meet in accordance with the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and to allow joint investigations of human rights violations;

5. Requests the Commission and the Council to provide and facilitate support and assistance to the parties in implementing the CARHRIHL, notably through development, relief and rehabilitation programmes;
6. Calls on the European Council and Commission to support the GRP in its efforts to advance the peace negotiations, including by means of facilitation if requested, as well as through support for the International Monitoring Team responsible for overseeing the ceasefire between the military and the MILF;
7. Suggests that the role of the International Monitoring Team could be enhanced through a stronger mandate for investigations and through an agreed policy of making its findings public;
8. Calls on the GRP to increase development aid to Mindanao in order to improve the desperate living conditions of the local population and welcomes the financial support of more than € 13 million in food and non-food aid which the EU has given to Mindanao since the fighting restarted in August 2008;
9. Expresses its grave concern at the hundreds of cases of extrajudicial killings of political activists and journalists that have occurred in recent years in the Philippines, and the role that the security forces have played in orchestrating and perpetrating those murders;
10. Calls on the GRP to investigate cases of extrajudicial executions and forced disappearances; calls at the same time on the GRP to put into place an independent monitoring mechanism to oversee the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators;
11. Calls on the GRP to adopt measures to end the systematic intimidation and harassment of political and human rights activists, members of civil society, journalists and witnesses in the criminal prosecutions and to ensure truly effective witness protection;
12. Reiterates its request to the Philippine authorities to allow the UN special bodies dealing with human rights protection unrestricted access to the country; also urges the authorities to swiftly adopt and implement laws to incorporate the international human rights instruments which have been ratified (e.g. against torture and enforced disappearances) into national law;
13. Calls on the Commission and Council to ensure that the EU's financial assistance towards economic development of the Philippines is accompanied by scrutiny of possible violations of economic, social and cultural rights, with special attention being paid to encouraging dialogue and inclusion of all groups in society;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the

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President and Government of the Republic of the Philippines, the MILF, the NDFP, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the governments of the ASEAN Member States.

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