Resolution on Iran

2008/2567(RSP) - 24/04/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Following the debate which took place on the same date, the European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled on behalf of the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, UEN, Greens/ALE, GUE/NGL groups on Iran and welcomes the release of Khadijeh Moghaddam and Mokarrameh Ebrahimi, noting the role of the Supreme Leader and the Head of the Judiciary in these cases. Parliament calls for the release of Shahla Jahed.

It strongly condemns the repression of civil society movements in Iran, including women's rights defenders such as those involved in the One Million Signatures Campaign, which campaigns for legal equality between men and women. Since the launch of this campaign in Iran on 27 August 2006, over 70 activists have been arrested or are otherwise facing persecution because of their peaceful efforts to lobby for legislative change, and the Campaign's website has been blocked numerous times by the authorities. Members recall that women's rights activists in Iran face growing repression, more than a hundred of them having been arrested, interrogated or sentenced in the past two years, while the government has raised over one million euros in bail. Furthermore, women's rights media have been closed down, including the most prominent magazine advocating women's rights – Zanan –, which had existed for over 17 years and was closed down on 28 January 2008. Parliament acknowledges the active and important role women play in Iranian society, despite great persisting legal inequalities. This role can be a source of inspiration and hope for women in other countries of the region. The Iranian Parliament and Government are called upon to change the discriminatory Iranian legislation which, among other things, excludes women from the most senior State offices and appointment as judges, denies them equal rights with men in marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance, and determines that any evidence they give before a court carries only half the weight of that given by a man. Under certain circumstances this inequality may contribute to women's committing violent crimes.

Parliament calls for an immediate moratorium on executions in Iran, and is appalled that that country continues to have the highest number of executions of child offenders in the world and that the moratorium on stoning is still not fully implemented. It notes the directives recently issued by Head of Judiciary Sharoudi on banning public executions without prior consent and detentions for long periods without charge.

The members of the newly elected Majlis are called upon speedily to pass the pending reform of the Iranian Penal Code, with the aim notably of abolishing stoning and executions of child offenders, to move towards a moratorium on the death penalty, to bring Iranian legislation into line with international human rights obligations and to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Lastly, Parliament calls on the Council and the Commission to monitor closely the human rights situation in Iran, to raise concrete cases of human rights abuses in Iran with the authorities and to submit to Parliament in the second half of 2008 a comprehensive report on the matter, including proposals for projects that could be financed in the framework of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.