Resolution on Somalia

2008/2675(RSP) - 20/11/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of the same date, 2008, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Somalia. The resolution had been tabled for consideration in plenary by the Greens /EFA, EPP-ED, PES, UEN, ALDE and GUE/NGL groups. It recalls that on 27 October 2008 a 13-year-old girl named Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow was stoned to death in Somalia. The stoning was carried out by a group of 50 men in a stadium in the southern port of Kismayo, in front of around 1000 spectators. The girl was accused and convicted of adultery in breach of Islamic law while she was in fact a victim of rape by three men. The al-Shabab militia, who control Kismayo, detained and ordered the execution by stoning of Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow, but did not arrest or detain those accused of her rape. Parliament strongly condemns the stoning and execution of Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow and expresses its horror at such a barbaric act perpetrated against a 13-year-old rape victim. It calls on the Somali Government to condemn this execution and to take action to prevent such brutal executions in the future. It also calls on the Somali Government to issue documents and make statements to restore the honour of Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow posthumously.

Members support the legitimate Somali Government's attempts to assert its control over the port of Kismayo, and calls for those accused of raping Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow to be brought to trial in accordance with due process. They recall that, due to the dramatic situation in Somalia and the widespread violence perpetrated by some factions of the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (the so-called 'Islamic Courts') which are trying to topple the legitimate government of Somalia, there are gross violations of human rights in Somalia on a daily basis. They call on the EU to provide all necessary support in order to create a lasting democratic government in Somalia and to help the Somali Government to assert its control over the whole country and establish the rule of law in a manner compatible with its international human rights obligations, which would prevent such executions in the future.

Parliament strongly urges the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to make full use of its mandate to protect civilians, with a particular focus on women and children, and calls for it to be mandated to monitor, investigate and report human rights violations. It calls on both the Somali and Kenyan authorities to make all possible efforts and take all possible political and diplomatic initiatives to secure the release of the two Italian Roman Catholic nuns who were recently kidnapped from Kenya and taken to Somalia.

Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS) signed a cease-fire agreement on the 26 October 2008 in Djibouti, and the regional leaders of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) presented a peace plan for Somalia at the special Summit in Nairobi on 28-29 October 2008. The resolution strongly supports the Djibouti agreement between the TFG and the ARS aimed at ending years of hostilities in Somalia and at forging a lasting solution to restore peace and put an end to the abuses referred to in this resolution.