Resolution on Burma

2010/2553(RSP) - 11/02/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate which took place on 9 February 2010, the European Parliament adopted by 61 votes a resolution on Burma.

The resolution was tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP, S&D, Greens/ALE, ECR, GUE/NGL as well as by two Lithuanian members - Juozas IMBRASAS and Rolandas PAKSAS (both EFD).

Parliament strongly condemns the ongoing systematic violations of human rights fundamental freedoms and basic democratic rights of the people of Burma/Myanmar and expresses grave concern at the recent trial, conviction and sentencing of **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi** in August 2009. It calls for her immediate and unconditional release, and requests her right to participate in the first elections for 20 years, which will take place at the end of 2010. The international community are asked to put all their efforts in the holding of free and democratic elections. Parliament urges the Governments of China, India and Russia to use their considerable economic and political leverage with the Burmese authorities in order to bring about substantial improvements in the country and to **cease the supply of weaponry and other strategic resources**.

Members reaffirms the essential importance of a genuine process of dialogue and national reconciliation for a **transition to democracy**, and call on the Government of Myanmar immediately to start a genuine dialogue with the National League for Democracy (NLD) and all other concerned parties and ethnic groups. They urge the government to release all **prisoners of conscience** without delay and with full restoration of their political rights and to desist from further politically motivated arrests. The Government of Myanmar is urged to take the necessary steps to ensure a free, fair, transparent and inclusive electoral process, including by allowing the participation of all voters, and all political parties, and accepting international observers.

Parliament moves on to note that there are an estimated half-million internally displaced persons in eastern Burma, and 140,000 refugees remain in nine camps along the **Thailand-Burma border**, some of the millions of Burmese migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who live in Thailand, India, Bangladesh, and Malaysia and are sometimes subject to trafficking. Parliament urges the European Commission, in light of the ongoing conflict on the Thailand-Burma border, to **reconsider its decision to further cut support from the EC Humanitarian Office (ECHO)** for refugee assistance on the Thailand-Burma border in 2010. It wants the Council and Commission to use their influence with the Royal Thai government and UNHCR, to act on behalf of these refugees who are fleeing from the Burmese military Junta. Parliament calls on the Royal Thai government to work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) and the international community to find an alternative solution that ensures the safety of the 3000 Karen refugees.

Parliament expresses its deep concern about the resumption of armed conflict in some areas and calls upon the Burma military Junta:

- to protect the civilian population in all parts of the country and for all concerned to respect existing ceasefire agreements;
- to end the practice of systematic forced displacement of large numbers of persons within their country and other causes of refugee flows into neighbouring countries;

- to put an immediate end to the continuing recruitment and use of child soldiers, to intensify measures to ensure the protection of children from armed conflict and to pursue its collaboration with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, including by granting access to areas where children are recruited, for the purpose.

Members urge the Government of Bangladesh: to immediately cease arrests, push-backs and forced displacement of the unregistered Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban Districts; to recognise that the unregistered Rohingyas are stateless asylum seekers who fled persecution in Myanmar and are in need of international protection; and to provide them with adequate protection, access to livelihood and other basic services.