Resolution on Thailand

2010/2665(RSP) - 20/05/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Thailand.

The resolution was tabled on behalf of the ALDE, EPP, S&D, Greens/ALE, and ECR groups.

It expresses deep concern about the violent conflict between demonstrators and security forces in Thailand, which poses a threat to democracy in the country, and expresses its solidarity with the Thai people and all families who have suffered the loss of loved ones during the past weeks. Members recall that Thailand has witnessed violent clashes between 'red-shirt' demonstrators and the government, together with the army supported by the 'yellow-shirt' movement, that have already claimed the lives of more than 60 people and left more than 1700 injured, and that a state of emergency has been declared in more than 20 provinces across the country. On 10 April 2010 violence broke out between demonstrators and security forces in Bangkok. Parliament calls on all parties to show the utmost self-restraint and to halt political violence and stresses its will to support democracy in Thailand, taking into consideration the excellent nature of EU-Thai relations and Thailand's role as a source of prosperity and stability in the region.

It urges the international community to make every effort to stop the violence. Members urge the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to monitor the political situation closely and coordinate action with ASEAN to foster dialogue and strengthen democracy in Thailand.

They welcome the Thai Government's decision to establish a committee comprising forensic experts and representatives of academic institutions to investigate the deaths that occurred during the incident on 10 April 2010, and call on the government to extend those investigations to cover the recent deaths; endorses the initiative by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to set up a centre to provide assistance to injured people and relatives of those killed in clashes between state officers and supporters of the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship.

Whilst acknowledging the roadmap presented by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on 3 May 2010, Parliament calls on the Thai Government to ensure that the declaration of a state of emergency does not lead to any disproportionate restriction of fundamental rights and individual freedoms. It also calls on the Thai Government to end censorship and restrictions on the right to freedom of expression. Members recall that the state of emergency declared by the Thai Government has led to censorship of a satellite television station, several radio and television stations, and internet sites. The EU has expressed deep concern at the threats posed to media freedom and has reaffirmed that freedom of expression is a fundamental right, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All parties are urged to engage immediately in a constructive dialogue in order to seek a quick, negotiated settlement and to solve the current crisis by peaceful and democratic means.

Lastly, Parliament welcomes the National Human Rights Commission's calling of a consultative meeting of intellectuals, representatives of social movements, religious leaders and the four former Prime Minsters Anand Panyarachun, Banharn Silapa-acha, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh and Chuan Leekpai to look for and put forward a solution to end this crisis.