Resolution on Zimbabwe, notably the case of Farai Maguwu

2010/2768(RSP) - 08/07/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Zimbabwe, notably the case of Farai Maguwu.

The resolution had been tabled by the EFD, S&D, ALDE, Greens/ALE, EPP, GUE and ECR groups. Parliament demands the **immediate and unconditional release of Farai Maguwu Farai Maguwu**, a Zimbabwean citizen and founder/director of the Centre for Research and Development (CRD), a human rights NGO based in Manicaland, who has identified serious human rights violations by the Zimbabwean state security forces in several Zimbabwean diamond fields, most notably in Chiadzwa. He was arrested by the Zimbabwean authorities on 3 June 2010 on charges of publishing information prejudicial to the Zimbabwean State and has since been detained in poor conditions and denied his essential medication, the right to have his case heard by a judge within 48 hours of arrest and the right to bail. Parliament condemns the conditions of his arrest and detention. It insists that the Zimbabwean authorities honour their **Kimberley Process commitments made at the Swakopmund meeting** in November 2009, when Zimbabwe undertook to carry out a series of actions to bring diamond mining in Marange into compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification System. Zimbabwe must fully demilitarise the Marange diamond fields, and institute proper measures to maintain law and order in a way which is respectful of the rights of the local people.

Parliament calls for the **revision of the Kimberley Process** to take proper account of human rights principles. It insists that the Zimbabwe Government use the substantial revenue that diamond mining in Chiadzwa is likely to generate as the basis for the regeneration of the Zimbabwean economy as a whole, and as a means of providing the health, education and social funding currently provided by international donors, and to that end urges the government to establish **a sovereign Diamond Trust Fund** that would be placed at the service of the people of Zimbabwe.

Members welcome the **recent renewal (February 2010) of the EU's list of banned individuals and entities with links to the Mugabe regime**; emphasises that these restrictive measures are aimed solely at elements of the Zimbabwean regime and will in no way impact on the Zimbabwean people as a whole. They emphasise the importance of dialogue between the European Union and Zimbabwe and welcomes the progress that has been made in this direction.

They call on the Zimbabwean Government to guarantee and uphold the unrestricted right to free speech in Zimbabwe, so that NGOs (such as Farai Maguwu's Centre for Research and Development) can freely express opinions without fear of persecution or imprisonment. They also call for the Kimberley Process to ensure that the Monitor for Zimbabwe acts with complete independence, integrity and regard for human rights.

Lastly, Parliament calls on **South Africa and the Southern Africa Development Community** (SADC), in their own interests as well as those of Zimbabwe and the wider southern African region, to take active steps to encourage a return to full democracy in Zimbabwe and respect for the rule of law and the human rights of the people of Zimbabwe. It recognises that Mugabe and his close supporters remain a continuing stumbling block in the process of political and economic reconstruction and reconciliation in Zimbabwe, plundering as they do its economic resources for their own benefit.