

Resolution on failures in protection of human rights and justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo

2010/2857(RSP) - 07/10/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following a debate that took place in plenary on 6 October 2010, the European Parliament adopted by 585 votes to 8, with 34 abstentions a resolution on failures in protection of human rights and justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, ECR and EFD.

Members condemn the mass rape and other human rights violations which took place between 30 July and 4 August on at least 500, including young girls, women of up to 75 years old and children (boys and girls) in North Kivu province by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a Hutu rebel group, and the Mai Mai militia, as well as those in other regions of North and South Kivu. They call on all actors to step up the fight against impunity and for an immediate end to the violence and human rights abuses in the DRC, particularly in North Kivu.

Parliament calls on the United Nations and the DRC government to conduct an impartial and thorough investigation of the events, to ensure that those responsible for breaching human rights and international humanitarian law are held responsible and prosecuted in conformity with Congolese and international law.

It expresses its deep concern that MONUSCO (Mission of the UN in Democratic Republic of Congo) could not use its mandate and rules of engagement to provide protection against such massive rapes and other human rights abuses by armed movements in the vicinity of its peacekeeping base, although it recognises, nevertheless, that its presence remains necessary. It calls on the UN Security Council, as a matter of urgency, to take all possible measures with a view to genuinely preventing any further attacks on the civilian population of the eastern provinces of the DRC and to provide medical, legal, social, humanitarian and other assistance to victims. It also stresses the urgent need for a political solution to the armed conflict and calls on the DRC Government to bring security and stability to the people of eastern Congo.

Members stress that the rehabilitation and reform of the judicial system (incorporating a prevention and protection dimension and combating impunity with regard to sexual violence) and assistance for, and reintegration of, victims should be central to the aid programmes to be funded. In this context, they call for **the cases of mass rape in the east of the DRC to be referred to the International Criminal Court.**

Members also underline that a key humanitarian priority in the DRC would be the creation of a true national army. They call for the countries of the Great Lakes region to maintain a high level of commitment to the joint promotion of peace and stability in the region.

The European Union and its Member States are called upon to support the EUSEC RD and EUPOL RD mission activities and to ensure a strong gender perspective in civilian and military missions in order to increase their operational effectiveness.

Lastly, members welcome the adoption of the new US "Conflict Minerals" Law (an initiative to prevent US consumers from buying mobile phones, computers and high-tech goods produced by US companies

using minerals purchased from enterprises controlled by the rebels). They ask the Commission and the Council to examine a legislative initiative along the same lines.