

Resolution on Zimbabwe

2011/2658(RSP) - 07/04/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following a debate which was held on the same day, the European Parliament adopted by 43 votes (no votes against or abstentions) a resolution on Zimbabwe.

The resolution was tabled by the ECR, Greens/ALE, S&D, ALDE, EPP and GUE/NGL groups and by Fiorello PROVERA (EFD).

Noting that there has been a marked increase in intimidation, arbitrary arrests, and disappearances of political opponents of Zanu-PF over the last few months, Parliament demands an **immediate end to all politically motivated harassment, arrests and violence** by the Zimbabwean state security services and militias **either directly controlled by, or loyal to, Mugabe and the Zanu-PF party**. It stresses that those responsible for such abuses must be held accountable and calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all those arbitrarily arrested, in particular MDC officials and followers, and condemns all conditions of arrest and detention contrary to international human rights conventions.

Members welcome the renewal in February 2011 of the EU's list of banned individuals and entities with links to the Mugabe regime, and they urge the EU to keep its **restrictive measures** against these individuals and entities in place until there is real evidence of change for the better in Zimbabwe. These restrictive measures are aimed solely at the Zimbabwean kleptocracy and will in no way impact on the Zimbabwean people as a whole. Parliament calls on the Council and Commission and Member States to take steps to explain this reality in Zimbabwe and internationally and to be more active in winning support for a rapid change to real democracy and economic progress in the country. It applauds the EU and those Member States and other countries that continue to **provide funding in direct support of the Zimbabwean people**, emphasising the need to ensure that such support continues to be channelled through bona fide NGOs, is well targeted and properly accounted for, avoiding government agencies. It also calls on Member States and the EU to **refuse to accept any Zimbabwean Ambassador to the EU** who is not nominated on the basis of due constitutional process and in compliance with the GPA. The EU must actively engage with the African Union and the SADC, in particular South Africa, so as to ensure that intimidation and violence do not take place in connection with future elections in Zimbabwe.

Members are of the view, however, that an early election would not resolve outstanding political and economic reform issues. Any election must be based on international norms, including respect for human rights, freedom of expression and movement, with an immediate end to harassment and detention of individuals based on their political views. Parliament insists that the Zimbabwean people should be given freedom of expression and of assembly, that all intimidation of politicians and civil society activists (in particular human rights activists) should cease, and that every elected representative, irrespective of political persuasion, as well as NGOs, political activists, the press and ordinary citizens should be able freely to express their opinions without fear of violent persecution, arbitrary imprisonment or torture.

Members call on all Zimbabwe's political parties to:

- reach an agreement on a roadmap towards holding free and fair internationally monitored elections in Zimbabwe;
- fully re-engage with the ongoing constitutional reform process, with a view to having a new Zimbabwean Constitution, acceptable to the people of Zimbabwe, in place prior to the next elections.

Lastly, they insist that the Zimbabwean authorities should honour their Kimberley Process obligations, fully demilitarise the Marange diamond fields and introduce transparency as regards the proceeds of diamond production.