Resolution on Indonesia, including attacks on minorities

2011/2748(RSP) - 07/07/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Indonesia expressing **grave concern at the incidents of violence against religious minorities**.

The resolution had been tabled by the EFD, Greens/EFA, EPP, S&D, ECR, GUE/NGL and ALDE groups.

Members note the significant increase in the incidence of attacks against religious minorities, particularly Ahmadis, who consider themselves Muslims, but also against Christians, Baha'ís Buddhists and progressive civil society organisations, and they are concerned that violations of religious freedom undermine the human rights guaranteed in the Indonesian Constitution, including the prohibition of discrimination and freedom of expression, opinion and peaceful assembly. They recall that over 150 individuals have already been arrested or detained under the Indonesian Criminal Code, and there is evidence to show that local blasphemy, heresy and religious defamation by-laws are being used by extremists to clamp down on religious freedom and to stir up intercommunity tensions and violence. They express deep concern about these by-laws, which are open to misuse, and at the 2008 Joint Ministerial Decree prohibiting the dissemination of Ahmadiyya Muslim teachings, and **call on the Indonesian authorities to repeal or revise them**

Parliament calls on the EU delegation and Member States' diplomatic missions to continue to monitor the human rights situation, in particularly in sensitive regions such as Papua, the Moluccas and Aceh. It emphasises the importance of including a **human rights dimension**, with a special focus on religious freedom and respect for minorities, in the political dialogue in the framework of the EU-Indonesia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). Member States and the Commission are called upon to support Indonesian civil society and human rights organisations which are actively promoting democracy, tolerance and peaceful co-existence between different ethnic and religious groups.

Members note that there are credible reports, namely by the National Commission on Human Rights, of human rights violations by members of the security forces in Indonesia, including torture and other forms of ill-treatment and the unnecessary and excessive use of force, in particular on Papua and Maluku Islands, but those responsible are rarely brought to account before an independent court.

The resolution urges the Indonesian Government:

- to follow the recommendations made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and, in particular, to invite the UN Special Rapporteur for freedom of religion and belief to visit the country;
- to investigate allegations of human rights violations by members of the security forces and to prosecute those found responsible, including persons with command responsibility.

Lastly, Parliament calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience who have been arrested and charged merely on the basis of their involvement in peaceful political protest, which is contrary to the spirit of the 2001 Special Autonomy Law that granted Papuans, Maluku and other ethnic and religious minorities the right to express their cultural identity.