Resolution on Bahrain

2011/2875(RSP) - 27/10/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Bahrain.

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

It notes that recent peaceful demonstrations were crushed with excessive use of force by the Bahraini authorities, and it **condemns the repression of citizens in Bahrain** which led to dozens of deaths and injuries and **urges the immediate and unconditional release of all peaceful demonstrators**, political activists, human rights defenders, doctors and paramedics, bloggers and journalists and expresses its solidarity with the families of all the victims. Noting that many political activists, human rights defenders and journalists were detained during the recent pro-reform protests, and that according to human rights organisations they have been tortured, ill-treated and harassed by security forces, Members call on the **Bahraini security forces and authorities to stop violence, repression and detention** and reiterate their view that **demonstrators have expressed their legitimate democratic aspirations**. The Bahraini Government is urged to engage in a genuine, meaningful and constructive dialogue with the opposition.

Parliament recalls that following a request from the Bahraini Government, thousands of foreign forces from Saudi Arabia and the UAE under the banner of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have been deployed in Bahrain, and it expresses its **grave concern at the presence of foreign troops under the GCC banner in Bahrain** and calls for their immediate withdrawal. It reiterates its call on the GCC to contribute constructively and mediate in the interest of peaceful reforms in Bahrain.

The resolution goes on to **condemn the use of special military courts to try civilians**, as it is a violation of international fair trial standards, and stresses that civilians must be tried in civilian courts.

Referring to the 20 doctors and paramedics, who had been sentenced to between five and 15 years in prison for alleged antigovernment activities while performing their professional duties, Parliament welcomes the decision to retry doctors and nurses in civil courts but considers that all charges against them should be dropped, and calls on the civil courts to release the doctors and medical staff unconditionally and immediately. The doctors and paramedics in question were acting in accordance with their professional duty and have been accused of tending to the medical needs of those who oppose the regime, as well as of serious criminal offences which seem to be of a political nature and for which credible evidence has not been put forward. Members call for the admission of international observers to the trials of political prisoners as well as for them to be allowed to monitor the work of the independent commission investigating human rights violations to ensure objectivity according to international standards.

Whilst taking positive note of King Hamad's decision to set up an independent commission to investigate the human rights violations by the security forces during the government crackdown on peaceful pro-reform protesters, Parliament urges **full impartiality and transparency for the commission** and calls on the Bahraini Government not to interfere in its work and to ensure that perpetrators of crimes and all persons responsible for the violent crackdown are brought to justice and tried by due process. It welcomes the setting-up of a Ministry for Human Rights and Social Development in Bahrain, and calls on that ministry to act in accordance with international human rights standards and obligations.