Resolution on South Sudan

2017/2683(RSP) - 18/05/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on South Sudan.

The text adopted in Plenary was presented as a joint resolution by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, GUE /NGL, Greens/EFA, EFDD and Barbara KAPPEL.

Members recalled that for more than three years South Sudan has been involved in a civil war that broke out after the country's president, Salva Kiir, from the Dinka ethnic group, accused its sacked former deputy president, Riek Machar, who belonged to the Nuer ethnic group, of attempting to foment a *coup d'état*.

Despite the signing of the agreement on the resolution of the conflict in South Sudan in August 2015, there continues to be a **total disregard for international human rights and international humanitarian law**.

The country is also facing famine and economic collapse as a result of the civil war, with more than 3.6 million people forced to flee their homes and 4.9 million people exposed to insecure food supplies. Humanitarian needs continued to grow to alarming levels, with an estimated 7.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and more than one million people currently refugees in UN camps.

At the current rate, by the end of 2017, **half the population of the country will have perished or have been displaced** and it is unclear how many people have been killed as a result of the violence, including the systematic rape and kidnapping of women and girls.

South Sudan is also home to some 270,000 refugees from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and the Central African Republic.

The country is also affected by a cholera epidemic and humanitarian work is very difficult since at least 79 humanitarian workers have been killed since December 2013.

Exceptional emergency aid: Members pointed out that in view of this situation, the Commission had announced a package of emergency measures worth EUR 82 million following the onset of famine. The EU is one of the largest donors in the country, providing more than 40% of all humanitarian funding to support vital programmes in 2016 and some EUR 381 million in humanitarian assistance since the conflict began in 2013.

While deploring the attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers, Members again called on the European Union and its Member States to **increase humanitarian aid in order to alleviate famine and to put pressure on the Government of South Sudan** to ensure that the channels for the delivery of humanitarian assistance remain open.

They deplored the **recruitment of children in armed conflicts**, by all the warring parties, in South Sudan. They call for the programming of humanitarian aid and of development aid by the European Union to help provide basic education and long-term rehabilitation and assistance.

On the **political front**, Members called on the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the VP / HR to use all available resources to involve the United Nations, the African Union in launching a new political process to achieve a lasting ceasefire in the country.

They also stressed the urgent need to establish a Joint Tribunal for South Sudan with the adoption of a legal status by the African Union and assistance from United Nations and EU resources.

Arms embargo: Members regretted that the UN Security Council did not pass a resolution on 23 December 2016 that would have imposed **an arms embargo on South Sudan** and a travel ban and the freezing of assets of three senior South Sudanese leaders. They called on the EU to maintain an international arms embargo against South Sudan and to enforce it in practice. They also called on the authorities to ensure that the repatriation or relocation of internally displaced persons takes place in a safe and dignified manner.

Lastly, due to the endemic conflict, insecurity and the mass displacement of populations, they considered that credible and peaceful elections could not take place at present.