Resolution on Iran, in particular the case of 2012 Sakharov Prize Laureate Nasrin Sotoudeh

2020/2914(RSP) - 17/12/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 614 votes to 12, with 63 abstentions, a resolution on Iran, in particular the case of Nasrin Sotoudeh, winner of the 2012 Sakharov prize.

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

Parliament strongly condemned the arbitrary detention, sentencing and recent return to prison of human rights defender, lawyer and 2012 Sakharov Prize winner Nasrin Sotoudeh, a decision that could have life-threatening consequences. It called on the Iranian authorities for her immediate and unconditional release and to allow her to receive the health care she requires.

Members also condemned the executions of Rouhollah Zam, a French-based journalist and editor of Telegram Amad News on 12 December 2020 and wrestler Navid Afkari on 12 September 2020, and urged Iran to prevent the imminent execution of Iranian-Swedish academic Ahmadreza Jalali.

Parliament called on all EU Member States to make joint public statements and undertake diplomatic initiatives to monitor unfair trials and visit prisons where human rights defenders and other prisoners of conscience, including EU nationals, are being held in Iran.

Members strongly condemned the repression of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, calling on the Iranian authorities to guarantee the right of all detainees to due process and a fair trial. They also condemned the restrictions imposed on civic space, the use of the death penalty as an instrument of political repression and other cruel and inhuman punishments in the Iranian penal code.

The resolution called for targeted measures against Iranian officials and those responsible for serious human rights violations, including judges who have sentenced journalists, human rights defenders, political dissidents and activists to death. It stressed that further targeted sanctions will be necessary if the Iranian authorities do not release Mr Jalali, as requested by the European Union and its Member States.

Parliament called on the Council to make human rights violations a central element of its bilateral cooperation with Iran. It called on the European External Action Service (EEAS) and EU Member States to fully support the laureates of the Sakharov Prize through their diplomatic and consular representations and by establishing an internal interinstitutional task force in support of Sakharov Prize laureates who are at risk.