Resolution on the situation in Ethiopia and the new border conflict

2005/2662(RSP) - 15/12/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 93 to 0, with 0 abstentions, the resolution on the situation in Ethiopia and the new border conflict.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the PES, Greens/ALE, EPP-ED, ALDE, UEN and GUE/NGL groups.

Disturbed by recent news of large-scale human rights abuses following a massive and unprecedented crackdown, in which political leaders, human rights defenders, independent journalists, NGO workers and young people were arrested in Addis Ababa and in various other parts of the country, MEPs condemn the violence, the use of disproportionate means of repression by the armed forces and the mass arrests.

Parliament calls on the Ethiopian Government to

- immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and journalists and fulfil its obligations with respect to human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law;
- disclose the total number of persons detained throughout the country, to allow visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross and to allow all detainees access to their families, legal counsel and any medical care that their health situation may require;
- fully respect the fundamental principles of press freedom.

The Council and the Commission are called upon to consider targeted sanctions against members of the Ethiopian Government if the current human rights situation is not significantly improved and to channel humanitarian aid for the population of Ethiopia primarily through NGOs and UN specialised agencies in order to provide direct assistance to the population.

MEPs call for the resumption of the process of reform and improvement of democratic institutions. They express their full support for UN Security Council Resolution 1640(2005), which calls on Eritrea to immediately reverse its decision to ban United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) helicopter flights and all other restrictions imposed on UNMEE. They demand that both parties return to the 16 December 2004 levels of deployment of their troops, and call on Ethiopia to fully accept the final and binding decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission.

Lastly, Parliament calls on the African Union, whose head office is in Ethiopia, to take a clear stance, proving its determination to bring democracy forward in Africa, especially in Ethiopia.