Resolution on Iraq: the Assyrian community; the situation in Iraqi prisons

2006/2554(RSP) - 06/04/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 86 votes to 1 with 1 abstention a resolution on Iraq: the Assyrian community; the situation in Iraqi prisons.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by ALDE, PES, EPP-ED, and UEN groups.

The resolution deals with the firstly, **Assyrians** (Chaldeans, Syriacs and other Christian minorities) and secondly, the situation of prisoners in Iraq.

As regards **Assyrians**:Parliament notes that the Assyrians have increasingly become the victims of targeted violence such as destruction of property, kidnapping, attacks on churches, harassment, extortion, and torture of persons perceived as not respecting Islam. It strongly condemns all acts of violence against the latter and urges the Iraqi authorities and the MNF-I to find the perpetrators of these serious crimes and bring them to justice as soon as possible. Parliament urges the Iraqi authorities to protect the Assyrians from discrimination, in accordance with their international obligations, and to facilitate the return and resettlement of Assyrian refugees to a secure environment where their customs and way of life are respected. Parliament calls on the Commission and the Council to take all necessary measures to assist and protect the Assyrians.

The situation in prisons in Iraq: Parliament reaffirms its condemnation of the use of **torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of prisoners**. Parliament calls on the Iraqi authorities and the MNF-I to ensure that conditions of detention conform to international standards, and to release the identities of all remaining detainees, ensuring that they have access to legal counsel and prompt access to their families, and are informed of the reasons for their detention.

The Iraqi authorities and the MNF-I are asked to grant the International Committee of the Red Cross unfettered access to all British and US detention facilities, and to put in place adequate safeguards to protect detainees from torture and ill-treatment by:

- ensuring that all allegations of abuse are subject to thorough and independent investigation and that any military, security or other officials found to have used or authorised torture are brought to justice;
- ensuring that detainees are able effectively to challenge their detention before a court and are subject to due process;
- prosecuting all those currently held without charge for internationally recognisable criminal offences or else releasing them;

Parliament expresses its support for **EUJUST LEX** which is providing the necessary training for over 700 Iraqi judicial, police and prison personnel. It notes that the Iraqi authorities have requested that the mission be extended beyond the end of its current mandate and urges the Commission and the Council to extend the mission and to expand the scope of the training provided to include forensic policing.