Resolution on Guatemala

2007/2535(RSP) - 15/03/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 57 votes to 0, with 1 abstention, a resolution on Guatemala.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, UEN, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL groups.

The resolution recalls that three Members of the Central American Parliament, the Salvadoreans Eduardo José D'Aubuisson Munguía, William Rizziery Pichinte Chávez and José Ramón González Rivas, as well as their driver, Gerardo Napoleón Ramírez, were brutally murdered as they were driving towards the PARLACEN plenary meeting, and their charred and abandoned corpses were found near Guatemala City. The alleged perpetrators of these crimes, who held positions of responsibility in the Division of Criminal Investigation in the Police Department of Guatemala, were subsequently killed in the high-security prison where they were being held, in bizarre circumstances, which have still not been clarified.

There are suspicions that these killings constituted an attempt to hamper the investigations into the instigators of the murders of the members of the PARLACEN. Television journalists who covered the murder of the four police officers have received death threats after broadcasting their report.

The Parliament expresses its total repudiation of all the murders concerned and expects the Guatemalan government to guarantee full independence, liberty and security to the Guatemalan judicial authorities in their investigation of these crimes. It calls for the full cooperation of the political, judicial and police authorities in Guatemala and El Salvador in the investigation of the events.

The resolution calls on the Guatemalan Government to adopt measures to protect the judicial agents, the victims of crimes against humanity who are seeking justice, the human rights activists, and the witnesses who can help the trials progress.

The Commission is called upon to strengthen, in its strategy of cooperation with Guatemala for the period 2007 to 2013, the promotion of the rule of law, the fight against impunity, full respect for human rights, and support for the Guatemalan Government in the capacity building of its security forces on the basis of respect for human rights.