Basic information

2008/2548(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the case of the Afghan journalist Perwiz Kambakhsh **Subject** 6.10.09 Human rights situation in the world **Geographical area** Afghanistan	

Key players

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2858	2008-03-10

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/03/2008	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
13/03/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0106/2008	Summary
13/03/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/03/2008	Debate in Parliament		Summary
13/03/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2008/2548(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Urgent debate or resolution
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 150
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B6-0112/2008	11/03/2008	

Motion for a resolution		B6-0115/2008	11/03/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0116/2008	11/03/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0118/2008	11/03/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0123/2008	11/03/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0125/2008	11/03/2008	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T6-0106/2008	13/03/2008	Summary

Resolution on the case of the Afghan journalist Perwiz Kambakhsh

2008/2548(RSP) - 13/03/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Following the debate held in plenary on 13 March, the European Parliament adopted on the same date a resolution on the case of the Afghan journalist Perwiz Kambakhsh. The text adopted in plenary was tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, UEN, Greens/ALE and GUE/NGL groups.

Parliament recalls that on 22 January 2008, a regional court in the northern Afghan province of Balkh sentenced to death the 23-year-old Afghan journalist Sayed Perwiz Kambakhsh for circulating an article about women's rights in Islam, which he had downloaded from the Internet. The court ruled that the article constituted blasphemy and sentenced Mr Kambakhsh to death. Mr Kambakhsh was denied legal representation and sentenced without a proper hearing. Furthermore, he was allegedly beaten and threatened with execution until he signed a confession.

In its resolution, Parliament reaffirms its unconditional opposition to the death penalty and its commitment to respect for the rule of law. It condemns the arrest of Mr Kambakhsh and the decision by the primary court of Balkh province to sentence him to death on charges of blasphemy, and calls for Mr Kambakhsh to be released. Parliament urgently calls on the Afghan authorities to show their commitment to human and democratic rights by doing everything in their power to prevent his execution and to secure a review of his case. It also calls on President Hamid Karzai, in the event that the court of appeal should uphold the death sentence, to exercise his power to pardon Mr Kambakhsh. In this context, it recalls President Karzai's assurances concerning the safety of Mr Kambakhsh, which he gave to a delegation from the Afghan Independent Journalists' Association on 6 February 2008.

Members express their solidarity with all those fighting for independent journalism in Afghanistan. They call on the President and Parliament of Afghanistan to take appropriate steps to speed up the development of a functional penal and judicial system based on international standards and best practices, and they welcome the announcement by the Commissioner for External Relations at the Rome conference on 'The rule of law in Afghanistan' in July 2007 of immediate financial support to help Afghanistan strengthen the rule of law and reform its judiciary.

The Afghan Government is asked to respect the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the full and to ensure that freedom of expression is guaranteed and upheld for all citizens in Afghanistan.