Basic information

2010/2848(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on human rights in Syria, in particular the case of Haythan Al-Maleh **Subject** 6.10.09 Human rights situation in the world **Geographical area** Syria	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/09/2010	Decision by Parliament	T7-0316/2010	Summary
09/09/2010	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/09/2010	Debate in Parliament		
09/09/2010	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2010/2848(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		B7-0511/2010	07/09/2010	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0512/2010	07/09/2010	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0513/2010	07/09/2010	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0514/2010	07/09/2010	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0515/2010	07/09/2010	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0516/2010	07/09/2010	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0316/2010	09/09/2010	Summary

Resolution on human rights in Syria, in particular the case of Haythan Al-Maleh

2010/2848(RSP) - 09/09/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 55 votes to 1 with no abstentions a resolution on human rights in Syria, in particular the case of Haythan Al-Maleh.

Mindful of the importance of the political, economic and cultural ties that exist between the EU and Syria, it **expresses its deepest concerns about the situation of Mr Haythan Al-Maleh** and calls on the Syrian authorities immediately and unconditionally to release him, and to guarantee his physical and psychological well-being under all circumstances. Members recall that Mr Haythan Al-Maleh, an 80 year-old Syrian human rights lawyer, was arrested by officers of the General Intelligence Service on 14 October 2009, held incommunicado until his interrogation by the Military Prosecutor on 20 October 2009, and sentenced by the Second Military Court of Damascus on 4 July 2010 to three years of imprisonment on the grounds of transferring false and exaggerated news that weaken national sentiments under the Syrian Criminal Code, despite the fact that military tribunals should not have competence to try civilians. Members also call on the Syrian Government to **reconsider all cases of prisoners of conscience** in accordance with the national Constitution and the country's international commitments, and immediately to release all prisoners of conscience, including Mr Muhannad Al-Hassani, Mr Ali Al-Abdullah, Mr Anour Al-Bunni and Mr Kamal Labwani.

Further recalling that, according to reports by trial monitoring missions, the trial of Mr Al-Maleh failed to meet international standards of fairness, including the right to be presumed innocent and the right to defence, Parliament calls on the Syrian authorities to ensure the **transparent functioning of the judicial system**, with special regard to the Supreme State Security Court. It calls on the Syrian authorities to put **an end to any persecution or harassment of human rights defenders** and their families, and to ensure that human rights defenders are free to carry out their activities without any hindrance or intimidation.

Parliament sees the prospect of **signing the Association Agreement as offering a significant opportunity for addressing ongoing human rights violations** and strengthening the reform process in Syria. It calls on the Council and the Commission to make full use of this crucial leverage by adopting a bilateral Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan which clearly set outs the specific human rights improvements it expects from the Syrian authorities. In accordance with Article 218 of the TFEU, Parliament should be fully informed at all stages of the negotiations on international agreements. Members call therefore on the Commission to report back to Parliament on the state of discussions with the Syrian authorities relating to the signing of the Association Agreement. They welcome the continuing dialogue between the European Union and Syria and hope that the ongoing efforts will lead to improvements not only in the economic and social situation in Syria, which is already the case, but also politically and in the field of human rights.

Lastly, Parliament calls on the Syrian authorities to **abide by international human rights standards** and international commitments which the country freely entered into and which guarantee freedom of opinion and of expression and the right to a fair trial, and to ensure that detainees are well-treated and not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment and are granted prompt, regular and unrestricted access to their families, lawyers and doctors.