Basic information

2011/2747(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the mass rapes in the province of South Kivu **Subject** 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general **Geographical area** Congo DR, ex-Zaire	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/07/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0340/2011	Summary
07/07/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
07/07/2011	Debate in Parliament		
07/07/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2011/2747(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		B7-0442/2011	05/07/2011	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0443/2011	05/07/2011	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0458/2011	05/07/2011	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0459/2011	05/07/2011	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0460/2011	05/07/2011	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0461/2011	05/07/2011	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0340/2011	07/07/2011	Summary

Resolution on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the mass rapes in the province of South Kivu

2011/2747(RSP) - 07/07/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate which took place on the same day, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the mass rapes in the province of South Kivu.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ALDE, ECR, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL groups.

It roundly condemns the mass rapes, acts of sexual violence and other human rights violations perpetrated between 10 and 12 June 2011 in the South Kivu region, where 170 persons were the victims of rape or physical violence in the villages of Nakiele and Abala. It notes that members of the same armed group responsible were previously implicated in mass rape, arrests and lootings in the same area in January 2011. Parliament calls on the government of the DRC to consider the fight against mass rape and sexual violence against women as a national priority.

Parliament demands that the Commission and the Democratic Republic of Congo **review the DRC's Country Strategy Paper and the National Indicative Programme of the 10th EDF (2008-2013)** with the objective of making the issue of mass rape and sexual violence against women into a national priority to combat impunity. It also calls on the Commission to **release additional funds to combat sexual violence** and to work to create houses for the victims of sexual violence in sensitive areas, suggesting that a pilot project be set up to improve medical assistance to victims of sexual violence in the DRC. Members stress that the majority of the victims of sexual aggression are not receiving the necessary medical, social or legal aid, and suggest that a comprehensive programme of assistance to victims and their reintegration into Congolese society and the labour market be worked out by the Government of the DRC.

Members also call on the EU and its Member States to **support the activities of the EUSEC RD and EUPOL RD missions, and call for issues relating to combating sexual violence to be fully integrated into joint security and defence operations**. They note that the conflict resolution plan for South Kivu, which gives priority to the military solution, has proved to be a failure. The solution to this conflict must be political and Parliament regrets the lack of courage on the part of the international community, and considers that the time has come to go beyond condemnation and that responsibilities should be assumed by the Congolese government, by the EU and the UN to take concrete actions to end these atrocities. It stresses that, if nothing changes, humanitarian workers will have to be present on the ground for a long time to come.

Parliament welcomes the UN's decision to carry out an inquiry into the above events and deplores the fact that war criminals are still holding high command positions; calls for effective and immediate measures to ensure the protection of victims and witnesses during and after those investigations. Members state that they are disturbed at the risk that acts of sexual violence may become routine. They remind President Kabila that he has personally undertaken to pursue a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual violence and to prosecute the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the country, and to cooperate with the International Criminal Court and the countries in the region. They express concern that the UN Mission to the DRC (MONUSCO) could not use its mandate and rules of engagement more actively to provide protection against such mass rapes, including the atrocities committed by its own forces. Parliament insists that MONUSCO's mandate and rules of engagement should be carried out with determination to guarantee the safety of the population more effectively, and it welcomes the decision to extend the mission's mandate to 30 June 2012.

It remains deeply concerned at the **current humanitarian situation in the DRC and at the under-funding in this region** owing to the reduction in funding from certain bilateral donors. It deeply regrets the fact that, at present, the funds allocated are reaching only few victims. Members want the Commission to maintain the funding allocated to humanitarian aid in the eastern DRC.

Lastly, Parliament calls on the Commission to come forward with a **legislative proposal on conflict minerals** which fuel the war and mass rape in the DRC, with a view to combating impunity, similar to the Dodd-Frank Act (especially section 1502), which imposes new reporting requirement on manufactured products for which ‘conflict minerals’ are used.