

Thursday, 10 April 1997

10. Stresses the key role that the Arusha-based International Tribunal for Rwanda must play in the stabilization process of the Great Lakes region, since the punishment of those responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda is the best measure to prevent further massacres and to promote the safe and voluntary return of the refugees;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the UN Security Council and Secretary-General, the OAU, the Co-Presidents of the ACP/EU Joint Assembly, the governments of Zaire, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania, and the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

9. Human rights

(A) D4-0286/97

Resolution on violations of the human rights of persons living in the enclave in Cyprus

The European Parliament,

— having regard to its previous resolutions on Cyprus, and in particular those of 27 March 1996 ⁽¹⁾ and 24 October 1996 ⁽²⁾,

- A. whereas the treatment of some 350 Greek Cypriots and 150 Maronites living in an enclave in the occupied territories of northern Cyprus still gives considerable grounds for concern,
- B. whereas the Vienna III agreement of 1975 provided, *inter alia*, for the protection of Greek Cypriots in the enclave and the obligation, on the part of the occupying 'authorities', to ensure religious and educational rights and freedom of movement for the people living in question, protection of their health and reunification of their families,
- C. whereas the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted, in his report of 7 June 1996 on the situation in Cyprus, that the Vienna III agreement had not been applied to the persons living in the enclave and that their living conditions were grossly unacceptable,
- D. having regard to the daily violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms suffered by the persons living in the enclave in respect of religion, freedom of movement, education and health,
- E. whereas the Secretary-General of the United Nations made specific proposals in two successive reports in 1996 for improving the living conditions of the persons in the enclave, but whereas at the same time he noted that no progress had been made by the 'occupying authorities' in the northern part of the island,
- F. recalling the public declarations made by Lord Finsberg in 1995, in his capacity as a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on the policy of demographic cleansing applied to the persons in the enclave in northern Cyprus, and his call for immediate humanitarian action,
- G. whereas the number of persons in the enclave amounted to about 20 000 in 1974, while today it is under 500,
- H. whereas at meetings of the EU-Cyprus Joint Parliamentary Committee in Nicosia the European Parliament has on two occasions (March 1996 and March 1997) called for a small delegation to be sent, under the auspices of the UN, to visit persons in the enclave and to take stock of their condition, but has never obtained any clear authorization from the parties responsible for the occupied part of the island,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 117, 22.4.1996, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 347, 12.11.1996, p. 160.

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1. Regards the conditions which are always imposed by the occupying force on a visit by a delegation of Members of the European Parliament to persons in the enclave as one of the questions since acceptance of these conditions would be tantamount to de facto recognition of the illegal occupation.

2. Considers once again, and in the strongest terms, the serious and persistent violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms suffered by the persons in the enclave which have been confirmed by the illegal occupying regime, and the intransigence on the part of the latter;

3. Believes that, as a matter of urgency, a delegation from the European Parliament should be able to visit, as part of the work of its Subcommittee on Human Rights, the persons in the enclave freely and without any prior conditions, in order to report on their situation;

4. Calls for much greater awareness on the part of the UN and the bodies of the European Union, in particular the Council and the Commission, with a view to preparing and carrying out any action which they may deem necessary, including humanitarian action, aimed at improving the living conditions of the persons in the enclave;

5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the UN Secretary-General, the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the governments of Cyprus and Turkey.

(b) 84-8289, 8296, 8311, 8323 and 8326/97

Resolution on the human rights situation in Eastern Turkistan (Region of Xinjiang)

The European Parliament

— having regard to its previous resolutions on human rights violations in China

A. deeply concerned by the increasing instability in eastern Turkistan (Region of Xinjiang)

B. alarmed at the attacks carried out by the Chinese authorities on 20 March 1997 in eastern Turkistan which is predominantly Islamic following ethnic unrest

C. alarmed also by the execution of many Uighurs by the Chinese authorities, which triggered riots during which hundreds of other people were arrested

D. denouncing the use of violence, such as bombings, by whichever side

E. noting that in Eastern Turkistan (the region of Xinjiang) freedom of religion is severely repressed and that last year over 100 Islamic schools were closed down and 180 Muslim clerics, professors and students arrested

F. having regard to the concerns expressed by the United Nations Committee regarding racial discrimination against the Uighur people

G. noting that ever since the massacre in Tiananmen Square in 1989, the EU has traditionally backed resolutions on China in the UN Human Rights Commission and deploring the lack of a common EU policy on China in Geneva this year

1. Condemns the policy pursued by the People's Republic of China which is designed to eradicate the culture of the Uighur people and suppress the practice of their Islamic faith, a policy which includes the indiscriminate use of the death penalty, population transfers and population control through a birth policy aimed at changing the ethnic composition of this region;

2. Calls on the Chinese authorities to release forthwith all prisoners who were arrested for allegedly taking part in the riots but have not been charged with any crime corresponding to international standards and to guarantee the right to a public hearing, the right to defence and the right to be represented by a lawyer, as provided for in the modified Chinese Code of Criminal Procedure in force since 1 January 1997;

3. Calls on the Chinese Government to start a political dialogue with all parties involved in the eastern Turkistan (Region of Xinjiang) issue, in order to find a politically negotiated settlement of the various demands of the Uighur people.