

Thursday 14 January 1999

11. Reiterates the decision contained in its resolution of 21 November 1991 on the massacre in East Timor ⁽¹⁾ that a parliamentary delegation should be sent there;
12. Calls on the Council and the Commission to convey its concern on the human rights situation in Indonesia in the context of the upcoming EU-ASEAN meeting;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Indonesian Government, the UN Secretary-General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and to ASEAN.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 326, 16.12.1991, p. 182.

(b) B4-0045, 0061, 0073, 0080 and 0100/99

Resolution on Western Sahara

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions and its recommendation to the Council of 10 March 1998 on the situation in Western Sahara ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 11 December 1998 (S/1998/160) and the observations and recommendations contained therein,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 1204(1998) of 30 October 1998 and 1215 (1998) of 17 December 1998,
- A. noting that substantial progress has been made over recent months in the referendum process for Western Sahara and that all parties involved in this process have publicly declared their willingness to further accelerate this process,
 - B. concerned that, as time passes, the prospects of a referendum being held are becoming increasingly remote,
 - C. noting that all necessary measures for the repatriation of Saharan refugees eligible to vote have to be taken as soon as possible, and that the UNHCR has presented to all parties involved a protocol to this end,
 - D. emphasising the need for the European Union to give its fullest possible support to the UN Secretary-General in his efforts to bring about the referendum process in Western Sahara as soon as possible,
 - E. whereas the European Union should further encourage the mediating role of the United Nations, in particular of its Secretary-General, and should continue its humanitarian support in the area,
1. Welcomes the progress achieved by the UN Secretary-General on the referendum process in Western Sahara and calls on the parties to maintain and strengthen the political will they showed during the negotiations;
 2. Urges the Government of Morocco to accept within the deadlines fixed by the United Nations the proposals made by the UN Secretary-General in order to move forward with the implementation of the settlement plan;
 3. Calls on the Government of Morocco and the Polisario Front to cooperate fully with the United Nations in the holding without further delay of a free, fair and impartial referendum for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 104, 6.4.1998, p. 29.

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4. Calls upon the parties and the interested States to sign as soon as possible the proposed refugee repatriation protocol with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; urges the Government of Morocco to formalise the presence of the UNHCR in the Territory, and requests both parties to take concrete action to enable the UNHCR to carry out the necessary preparatory work;
5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to give their fullest support to the further preparatory work for the referendum process in Western Sahara;
6. Calls on the Commission to step up its humanitarian aid for the Sahrawi people in accordance with the demands of the NGOs, notably in the fields of food and health;
7. Asks that a delegation of observers be sent to monitor the referendum in Western Sahara;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the UN Secretary-General, the OAU and the Government of Morocco and the Polisario Front.

(c) **B4-0058, 0062, 0089, 0096 and 0103/99**

Resolution on the illegal trafficking of babies coming from Guatemala

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989,
 - having regard to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption of 29 May 1993,
 - having regard to its resolution of 12 December 1996 on improving the law and cooperation between Member States on the adoption of minors ⁽¹⁾,
- A. whereas international adoptions when carried out with proper procedures and guarantees for the baby or child often offer him/her a chance of living in better conditions and whereas international adoption is also an important form of international cooperation,
 - B. whereas it is a matter of priority not to penalise international adoption as such but to provide this process with transparent and balanced rules,
 - C. whereas the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child only recognises inter-country adoption as an alternative if the child cannot be cared for in a suitable manner in his/her home country; whereas the Convention states that all parties should take all appropriate measures to ensure that inter-country adoption does not result in improper financial gain,
 - D. whereas in the last few years, due to the internal conflict and the recent disaster caused by hurricane Mitch, the number of orphaned and abandoned minors and of people willing to give their children up for adoption for economic reasons has increased,
 - E. whereas in 1997 in Guatemala over 2 000 international adoptions were carried out by a small group of lawyers at an average cost of US\$ 15 000-20 000,
 - F. whereas international adoptions in Guatemala have almost doubled in the last 12 months,
 - G. concerned by reports that illegal methods of adoption are still common practice in Guatemala,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 20, 20.1.1997, p. 176.