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B6-0241/2008 }
B6-0265/2008 }
B6-0266/2008 }
B6-0267/2008 }
B6-0268/2008 }
B6-0269/2008 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure, by

- John Bowis, Jürgen Schröder, Filip Kaczmarek, Bernd Posselt, Eija-Riitta Korhola and Tunne Kelam, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group,
- Pasqualina Napoletano, Alain Hutchinson, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Glenys Kinnock and Ana Maria Gomes, on behalf of the PSE Group,
- Johan Van Hecke and Marios Matsakis, on behalf of the ALDE Group,
- Raül Romeva i Rueda and Mikel Irujo Amezaga, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Ryszard Czarnecki, Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, Adam Bielan and Ewa Tomaszewska, on behalf of the UEN Group
- Umberto Guidoni, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B6-0241/2008)
- Verts/ALE (B6-0265/2008)
- GUE/NGL (B6-0266/2008)
- PPE-DE (B6-0267/2008)
- UEN (B6-0268/2008)
- ALDE (B6-0269/2008)

on Burundi

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European Parliament resolution on Burundi

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Burundi,
 - having regard to the Dar-es-Salaam Agreement between the government of Burundi and the FNL Movement, signed in 2006,
 - having regard to the Action Plan adopted in Cape Town on 22 February 2008,
 - having regard to the EU Presidency declaration on the recent fighting in Burundi, issued on 23 April 2008,
 - having regard to the statement by the President of the UN Security Council on the situation in Burundi, issued on 24 April 2008,
 - having regard to the reports by the UN Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB),
 - having regard to the 2008 report by Human Rights Watch entitled ‘*Every Morning They Beat Me: Police Abuses in Burundi*’,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas since 17 April 2008 fighting has again erupted between government troops and the rebel National Liberation Front (FNL) in Burundi, forcing thousands of civilians to flee their homes and resulting in the deaths of 50 rebel fighters,
- B. whereas after 14 years of civil war Burundi has yet to establish a lasting peace, while the conflict has created a critical humanitarian and socio-economic situation that endangers regional stability,
- C. whereas over the past two years international efforts to establish a peace agreement between the government and the FNL – including the regional peace initiative on Burundi – have been unsuccessful,
- D. whereas negotiations between the government and the FNL broke down in July 2007 when the FNL walked out of the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JVMM) created to oversee implementation of the ceasefire accord signed in September 2006,
- E. whereas the continuing insurgency by the FNL is seen by many as the final barrier to lasting stability in Burundi, and a political solution is needed in order to secure the disarmament of the rebel group,
- F. whereas in early May 2008, the foreign ministers of Tanzania and Uganda, meeting under the auspices of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi, urged the FNL and other senior

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PE407.459v01-00}
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PE407.461v01-00}
PE407.462v01-00}
PE407.463v01-00} RC1

rebel leaders to leave Tanzania where they are based and to travel to Burundi to enter into peace talks,

- G. whereas attacks were launched in August 2007 against the homes of political figures who were not supporters of the President, or were former supporters,
 - H. whereas 46 Members of the Burundian Parliament, fearing for their physical safety, have written to the UN Secretary-General to request United Nations protection,
 - I. whereas the European Union has chosen Burundi as a pilot country for the implementation of a priority Action Plan aimed at increasing the speed and efficiency of assistance to developing countries that are in a precarious state,
 - J. whereas over 700 households (around 3 500 people) are said to be in the care of the authorities at present, awaiting food and emergency supplies,
 - K. whereas the latest bout of fighting is part of a series of clashes which have left even more households (35 000 people) displaced, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to over 100 000; whereas Tanzania wants to return its Burundian refugees to Burundi, while Burundi is still taking in thousands of Rwandan and Congolese refugees,
 - L. whereas it is alleged that Burundi's security forces have illegally detained around 200 people accused of supporting FNL rebels,
 - M. whereas on 2 May 2008 the government reported that four rebel fighters and one Burundian Army soldier had died in what was described as an FNL-initiated ambush,
 - N. whereas the climate of impunity in Burundi has created a situation where torture by the police and security forces is rife, as is illegal detention,
 - O. whereas the Burundi national police force, established under a transitional government in 2004, is not well trained and is made up of former rebels and soldiers as well as police officers,
 - P. whereas UNICEF assisted in the demobilisation of over 3 000 child soldiers in Burundi between 2004 and 2006; whereas children recently escaped from a demobilisation centre and went on the rampage, and over 500 children are still in the hands of the FNL,
 - Q. whereas Burundi was only the third country, after Uganda and Ethiopia, to contribute to the African Union peacekeeping mission to Somalia, based in Mogadishu and codenamed AMISOM, by sending 800 soldiers despite its precarious security situation,
- 1. Expresses serious concern at the recent military confrontations in Burundi between the National Defence Forces and the FNL, which have resulted in the loss of innocent lives;
 - 2. Calls on all parties to respect the ceasefire agreement concluded on 7 September 2006, resume negotiations and move swiftly to implement the JVMM established following the ceasefire;

3. Urges in particular the FNL, and its leader Agathon Rwasa, to engage constructively in the peace process;
4. Calls on the neighbouring states to ensure they do not serve as bases for the rebel movement, and welcomes Tanzania's decision to cease acting as a haven for FNL leaders;
5. Calls on the Commission to draw up measures to facilitate the reintegration of former FNL fighters into society once an agreement is signed;
6. Calls on the Commission to step up its humanitarian assistance, including for refugees and internally displaced persons, and only to scale this down as and when it is replaced by tangible development actions, in order to ensure a smooth transition between humanitarian operations and development policies;
7. Calls on donors to honour their undertakings and ensure closer upstream coordination, in order to increase aid effectiveness;
8. Calls on the Commission to propose a swift and significant increase in the financial resources which the European Union grants to Burundi, notably on the occasion of the mid-term review of the 10th EDF;
9. Calls on the Commission, in view of the fragility of the country and within the framework of the much-needed Action Plan, to give priority support to:
 - programmes for better governance and democratic state management;
 - health policies, through the creation of health centres and the essential renewal of the hospital network;
 - the decision by the Government of Burundi to provide free primary education;
 - the continuing efforts to renew the country's infrastructure;
10. Insists, in view of the urgency of the situation, that the emphasis should be placed on tangible actions visible to the people of Burundi;
11. Calls on the Commission and Member States to reinforce their presence on the ground in Burundi;
12. Calls on the Commission to promote actions by NGOs and local authorities in the EU aimed at assisting local authorities and civil society in Burundi;
13. Reaffirms its support for the South African Facilitation and for the regional initiatives, and remains resolved, as part of the political directorate, to play an active part in removing obstacles to implementation of the Action Plan adopted in Cape Town on 22-23 February 2008 and to assist in all efforts to reactivate negotiations and consolidate peace in Burundi; supports also the mediation efforts of the UN Commission for the Consolidation of Peace;

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PE407.461v01-00}
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PE407.463v01-00} RC1

14. Notes the greater stability that has come to Burundi since the entry into force of a new constitution followed by general elections, but calls for the establishment of a peace and reconciliation commission as a confidence-building measure that will help restore a climate of confidence and stability among the various interested parties, and calls on the governments of the EU Member States to support such an initiative financially and logistically;
15. Calls on the government of Burundi to take immediate action to ensure respect for the rule of law, end the climate of impunity, ensure that perpetrators of abuses are brought to justice and improve the training of the police force;
16. Welcomes the recent release of 232 children, following eight months of negotiations with a dissident faction of the FNL by the government of Burundi, civil society, UN agencies and others;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the governments of the EU Member States, the UN Security Council, the African Union and the governments of the Great Lakes region and of South Africa.