

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1983 - 1984

Minutes of proceedings
of the sitting
of

THURSDAY, 10 MARCH 1983

BP000375

10. Death sentences passed on Baha'is in Iran

Mr VON HASSEL introduced the motion for a resolution tabled by himself and others on behalf of the EPP Group, Mr NIELSEN on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group, Mr GLINNE and others on behalf of the Socialist Group, on the death sentences passed on Baha'is in Iran (Doc. 1-1372/82).

The following spoke : Mr HABSBURG on behalf of the EPP Group, Mr BEAZLEY on behalf of the ED Group, who pointed out that his group also wished to subscribe to the motion for a resolution, Mr EPHREMIDIS, Communist and Allies Group, Mr LALOR on behalf of the EPD Group, who indicated that his group wished also to subscribe to the motion, Mr KYRKOS, Mr NARJES, Member of the Commission, and Mr BARBI, the latter to give an explanation of vote.

The President declared the debate closed.

VOTE

Recitals A to G and paragraphs 1 to 3 : adopted

After paragraph 3 :

- am. 1 by Mr EPHREMIDIS, Mr ADAMOU and Mr ALAVANOS : adopted

Paragraph 4 : adopted

Parliament adopted the following resolution :

RESOLUTION

on death sentences passed on Baha'is in Iran

the European Parliament,

- . whereas the Baha'i religion, although forming the largest religious minority in Iran with over 300,000 adherents, is not recognized in the Iranian constitution as a religion 'worthy of protection';
 - . whereas, to date, over 120 Baha'is have been executed because they were not prepared to renounce their faith;
 - . whereas a group of five Baha'is were condemned to death on 23 September 1982, the first being hanged on 18 November 1982, a second shot on 21 November 1982 and a third hanged on 1 January 1983, with the remaining two Baha'is awaiting a similar fate;
 - . whereas 22 of the 90 Baha'is arrested in Shiraz have been condemned to death and have already had their sentences confirmed by the Supreme Court in Tehran;
 - . whereas the main charge against the condemned persons remains their adherence to the Baha'i religion, the renunciation of which would lead to immediate release;
 - . whereas the representative of the Netherlands brought this renewed gross violation of human rights before the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations in Geneva on 14 February 1983;
 - . having regard to its resolution of 19 September 1980 on the persecution of members of the Baha'i religious community in Iran;
1. Calls on the Government of Iran to suspend these sentences;
 2. Condemns this renewed gross violation of human rights;
 3. Calls on the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to make representations to the Iranian Government as quickly as possible in order to secure the release of these members of the Baha'i religious community and a halt to all manner of persecution and discrimination to which the Baha'i minority in Iran is subject;

4. Takes this opportunity of expressing its profound concern about the fate of Nuredin Kianuri, Secretary-General of the Tudeh Party in Iran, and other personalities and members of this party, who were arrested on 6 February 1983 and are in immediate danger of death, and urges the Iranian Government, on humanitarian grounds, to spare them and arrange for their immediate release;

5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation, the Iranian Government, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.