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**IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 60/251
OF 15 MARCH 2006 ENTITLED “HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL”**

**Letter dated 1 February 2007 from the Director of the United Nations
Office at Brussels addressed to the Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Please find annexed two resolutions adopted by the European Parliament at its sessions of 11 to 14 December 2006 and 15 to 18 January 2007.

In accordance with the request of the President of the European Parliament, I would be grateful if you would transmit these documents* to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

(Signed): Antonio Vigilante
Director of the United Nations
Office at Brussels

* Reproduced in the annex as received, in the languages of submission only.

Annex

Texts adopted by Parliament

Thursday, 14 December 2006 -
Strasbourg

Provisional edition

Follow-up to the Sakharov Prize

P6_TA-PROV(2006)0601

B6-0665 and 0666/2006

► European Parliament resolution on the follow-up to the Sakharov Prize

The European Parliament

– having regard to Rule 103(4) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought was established in 1988 and whereas this prize is one of the many ways in which the European Parliament supports human rights and the cause of democracy and is a means of acknowledging the contribution of those who fight oppression, intolerance and injustice in the world,

B. whereas the prize has been won by the following personalities and organisations: Anatoli Marchenko (1988), Aung San Suu Kyi (1990), Adem Demaçi (1991), Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo (1992), Oslobodjenje (1993), Taslima Nasreen (1994), Leyla Zana (1995), Wei Jingsheng (1996), Salima Ghezali (1997), Ibrahim Rugova (1998), Xanana Gusmão (1999), ! Basta Ya ! (2000), Nurit Peled-Elhanan, Izzat Ghazzawi and Dom Zacarias Kamwenho (2001), Oswaldo José Payá Sardiñas (2002), Kofi Annan and the United Nations (2003), the Belarus Association of Journalists (2004), Damas de Blanco (Cuba), Reporters Without Borders and Hauwa Ibrahim (joint winners) (2005) and Aliaksandr Milinkevitch (2006),

C. whereas the 1990 prize winner (the Burmese dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest) and the 2005 prize winner (the Cuban collective Damas de Blanco) have not yet been authorised to come to receive the prize,

D. whereas the Conference of Presidents decided to dispatch two delegations to Cuba and Burma to establish contact with the prize winners in order to check on their personal situation,

E. whereas the winner of the 1996 Sakharov Prize - Wei Jingsheng, who was still imprisoned at the time - has not yet had the opportunity to address the Plenary and receive the reward linked to the prize,

1. Deplores the fact that some prize winners have still not been authorised to receive their prize in person, which represents a violation of one of the fundamental rights of each human being, namely the freedom to enter and leave one's own country without hindrance, a right which is specifically recognised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

2. Demands that, following the Conference of Presidents' decision to dispatch two delegations, one to Burma and the other to Cuba, the authorities of those countries facilitate the delegations' journeys;
3. Welcomes the decision taken by the Conference of Presidents on 16 November 2006 to establish a follow-up mechanism for winners of the Sakharov Prize and systematically to dispatch a European Parliament delegation to meet those prize winners who have not been authorised by the authorities of their countries to attend the prize-giving ceremony;
4. Reiterates its demand that all winners of the Sakharov Prize (and in particular Aung San Suu Kyi, Oswaldo José Payá Sardiñas and the Cuban collective Damas de Blanco) be given access to the European institutions;
5. Calls upon its President to take all the necessary steps in order to enable these decisions to be implemented;
6. Calls upon the Conference of Presidents to enter on the agenda for its next meeting the organisation of a ceremony to award the Sakharov Prize to Wei Jingsheng;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Burmese, Chinese and Cuban Governments, the Chinese Parliament, the Burmese Parliament, the National Assembly of People's Power of the Republic of Cuba and the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Texts adopted by Parliament**Thursday, 18 January 2007 -
Strasbourg****Provisional edition****Death sentence imposed on
medical personnel in Libya**

P6_TA-PROV(2007)0007

**B6-0024, 0025, 0026, 0027,
0028 and 0029/2007****► European Parliament resolution on the conviction and imprisonment by Libya of five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor***The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the EU Annual Reports on Human Rights, in particular those for the years 2005 and 2006,
- having regard to its resolutions on the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union, and in particular to paragraph 25 of its resolution of 30 November 2006⁽¹⁾, paragraph 32 of its resolution of 15 December 2005⁽²⁾ and paragraph 39 of its resolution of 13 April 2005⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the Conclusions of the General Affairs and External Relations Council of 11 October 2004 expressing grave concern over the plight of the imprisoned medical personnel, its decision to provide assistance to the Libyan health services, the EU Presidency Statement of 19 December 2006 on the decision of the Criminal Court in Libya sentencing to death five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor, Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner's statement on the Libyan Court verdict also of 19 December 2006 on the Benghazi case, and the statements by the President of the European Parliament of 30 November 2006 and 20 December 2006,
- having regard to the reports from the Presidency to the European Council on the implementation of the EU's strategic partnerships with the Mediterranean States of December 2005 and December 2006,
- having regard to the Guidelines to EU Policy Towards Third Countries on the Death Penalty,
- having regard to rule 103(4) of the Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas on 9 February 1999 the Libyan authorities detained a number of Bulgarian medical personnel working at the 'Al-Fatih' hospital in Benghazi, and whereas on 7 February 2000 a trial against six Bulgarians, one Palestinian and nine Libyans started at the Libyan People's Court on a charge of deliberately infecting several hundred children with the HIV virus,

B. whereas on 6 May 2004 the Court sentenced five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor to death by firing squad; whereas on 25 December 2005 the Libyan Supreme Court issued its ruling on the appeal against the death sentence and ordered a new trial; whereas a new trial was held from 11 May 2006 and the death sentences were confirmed on 19 December 2006,

C. whereas there is strong evidence that torture was used in prison against the defendants in order to extract false confessions; and whereas numerous other flagrant violations of the defendants' rights were also committed,

D. whereas in 2003, following a demand by the Libyan authorities, a number of renowned international experts on HIV/AIDS provided a report which categorically concluded that the spread of the HIV virus was due to an in-hospital infection which had started before the arrival of the defendants in Libya; whereas recent publications provide strong scientific evidence about the origin and timing of the Benghazi infection; whereas all this strong evidence of the innocence of the defendants has been disregarded and ignored,

E. whereas in November 2004 the EU launched an 'HIV Action Plan for Benghazi', which includes technical and medical assistance to the infected children and the affected families, as well as support for the Libyan authorities to combat HIV/AIDS; whereas EUR 2 500 000 have been provided from the Community budget to fund the plan; whereas the implementation of this Action Plan is well under way, with support from the Commission and from EU Member States; and whereas a large number of the infected children have received treatment in hospitals in Member States,

F. whereas in January 2006, a Benghazi International Fund was established as a non-profit-making non-governmental body to help develop the local medical infrastructure in Benghazi, to improve the treatment of the patients and to provide assistance to the affected families,

1. Condemns the verdict of the Libyan Criminal Court of 19 December 2006, convicting, after a re-trial, and sentencing to death five Bulgarian nurses, Kristiana Vulcheva, Nasya Nenova, Valentina Siropulo, Valya Cherveniyashka and Snezhana Dimitrova, and a Palestinian doctor, Ashraf al-Haiui, who have already spent eight years in prison in connection with the 1999 HIV/AIDS case at the Benghazi hospital;

2. Reiterates its radical opposition to the death penalty and recalls that the EU considers that the abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights; stresses, at the same time, that the EU has taken this commitment further and now espouses abolition of capital punishment in third countries;

3. Reiterates its serious concern with regard to the basis on which the defendants were prosecuted, their treatment while in custody and the lengthy delays in the process;

4. Stresses that, as from January 2007, the Benghazi trial directly concerns five citizens of the European Union;

5. Invites the competent Libyan authorities to take the necessary measures to review and quash the death sentence, and pave the way for an early resolution of the case on a humanitarian basis, thus meeting the necessary prerequisites for the continuation of the common policy of engagement with Libya;

6. Calls on Colonel Qadhafi to exercise his powers and bring about the release of the imprisoned medical personnel as a matter of urgency;

7. Calls on the Commission and the Council to take steps with the Libyan Government to secure an early release of the imprisoned medical personnel;
8. Expresses its full solidarity with the victims of the HIV/AIDS infection in Benghazi and notes the measures taken by the international community to provide assistance to the children affected;
9. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to continue to provide assistance for the implementation of the HIV Action Plan and to support the Benghazi International Fund, in order to alleviate the suffering of the infected children and their families and to help the Libyan authorities to prevent and fight the spread of the HIV infection in the country;
10. Emphasises its resolve to follow this case closely and calls on the Commission and the Council to keep the European Parliament informed of any developments;
11. Calls on the Commission and the Council to consider, in the absence of a positive outcome to the case, a revision of the common policy of engagement with Libya in all relevant fields, as the Union deems appropriate;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the General People's Committee and the General People's Congress of Libya, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Human Rights Council.

⁽¹⁾ Texts Adopted, **P6_TA(2006)0511**.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 286 E, 23.11.2006, p. 511.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 33 E, 9.2.2006, p. 404.
