Resolution on the detention of two French nationals in Afghanistan

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Afghanistan and, in particular, its resolution of 24 October 1996 (1);

A. shocked at the arrest of two French nationals, Frédéric Michel and José Daniel Llorente, on the staff of 'Action contre la faim' (ACF) who are accused of violating the Sharia by attending a lunch bringing together some sixty Afghan women to mark the departure of three female ACF staff members,

1. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of the two French nationals held by the Talibans;
2. Believes it to be absolutely essential for a firm and unequivocal position to be adopted unanimously by the European Union in support of upholding and safeguarding human rights in Afghanistan;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the UN Secretary-General, Afghanistan's representative to the United Nations and the Talibans.

(1) OJ C 347, 18.11.1996, p. 156

Resolution on the release of Leyla Zana

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on human rights violations in Turkey,

A. deploring the fact that Leyla Zana, winner of the 1995 European Parliament Sakharov Prize, is being kept in prison for championing democracy and recognition of the rights of the Kurdish people by peaceful means,

1. Demands the immediate release of Leyla Zana, winner of the 1995 European Parliament Sakharov Prize;
2. Calls for the release of all other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Turkey;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the Turkish Government.

Resolution on illegal migrants

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the welfare of migrants,

- having regard in particular to its resolution of 19 September 1996 on expulsions of illegal immigrants (2).

A. noting with concern the drowning of more than 200 migrants in Mediterranean waters coming from Alexandria on Christmas Day 1996, where reports appear to indicate that the ship in which they were carried was deliberately rammed and sunk.

B. concerned there has been no coordinated investigation by Greek, Italian, Maltese or Egyptian authorities,

C. aware that this is but one incident of many where migrants have died or been seriously injured as a result of being transported to Europe in dangerous and inhuman conditions by unscrupulous persons for profit,

D. concerned that those who organize and perpetuate the illegal transport of migrants and who are responsible for countless deaths remain at liberty and free from the threat of prosecution,

E. deploring the grave infringements of the human rights of clandestine migrants who, being promised legitimate work, are entrapped in unpaid and exploitative work as prostitutes, domestic workers, and labourers in the agricultural, catering and construction sectors,

F. noting with concern the particular situation of women and children migrants who are more at risk by reason of their age and gender,

G. noting that 1997 has been designated the European Year Against Racism,

1. Urges the Commission to investigate the abuse of clandestine workers and those who have become clandestine workers;

2. Asks Member States to expedite their efforts to bring to justice those involved in trafficking people and urges improved police cooperation in these matters;

3. Asks that special measures be taken against those third countries that facilitate trafficking in people;

4. Urges Member States to adopt appropriate measures to ensure that the immigration status of migrants does not prevent them from initiating and following through legal action, whether civil or criminal, against persons who have abused them or infringed their human rights;

5. Asks the Council and the Commission to provide all appropriate assistance to those Member States facing the ever-increasing problem of illegal immigration;

6. Requests the Commission to support those organizations which are involved in investigating the abuse of migrants and in campaigning to uphold their human rights;

7. Insists on being informed and consulted on the activities of the Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on the Crossing of Frontiers and Immigration (Cirefi) on the basis of Article K.6 of the Treaty on European Union;

8. Further demands that Cirefi accepts two parliamentary representatives as observers;

9. Calls for the forthcoming Euro-Mediterranean Conference to include this item in its agenda;

10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.