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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Angelika Beer

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on Iran, notably the case of Roxana Saberi

European Parliament resolution on Iran, notably the case of Roxana Saberi

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the 3rd inter-parliamentary meeting between the European Parliament and the Majlis (Parliament) of the Islamic Republic of Iran , held in Brussels on 4-5 November 2008, and the report thereon,
 - having regard to the Resolution of the UN General Assembly of 18 December 2008 on the Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - having regard to the Report of the UN Secretary-General of 1 October 2008 on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - having regard to the EU Presidency Statement of 10 April 2009 on developments in the case of Roxana Saberi and the Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU of 22 April 2009 concerning the sentence imposed on Miss Roxana Saberi,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran,
- having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas on 18 April 2009 the Iranian-American journalist Roxana Saberi was sentenced to eight years in prison in an unfair trial behind closed doors and with charges changing arbitrarily from the crime of buying wine to doing press work without licence up to espionage and spying for the United States government

B. whereas Roxana Saberi went on a hunger and thirst strike and has been admitted to the Evin prison hospital on 1 May reportedly in very frail condition

C. whereas at least seven journalists and two bloggers are currently imprisoned in Iran and whereas Iran is one of the lowest-ranking countries when it comes to freedom of the press

D. whereas with the journalist Maryam Malek another member of the Campaign for Equality "One Million Signatures" was arrested on 25 April, the bail of her release being set at 200 million rials (over 10 000 Euros) which her family is incapable of paying

E. whereas on 1 May 2009 the Iranian authorities executed Delara Darabi in Rasht Central Prison

F. whereas Delara Darabi is the second person to be executed this year after being convicted of a crime she was alleged to have committed while still under 18

G. whereas Ms. Darabi was executed despite having been given a two-month stay of execution by the Head of the Judiciary on 19 April and in violation of the legal requirement that her lawyer should receive a 48 hours' notice

H. whereas the courts reportedly refused to consider evidence which might have proven that she could not have committed the murder and only confessed in order to save her boyfriend from the gallows

I. whereas on 1 May, International Labour Day, security and police forces violently repressed peaceful demonstrations in various locations in Iran which had been organised by ten independent labour organisations as is customary for the occasion all over the world and whereas reportedly over 100 people have been arrested

1. Expresses its grave concerns over the deteriorating health conditions of journalist Roxana Saberi which could be life threatening and calls for her immediate and unconditioned release;

2. Strongly criticizes the fact that Roxan Saberi has been deprived of all internationally accepted conditions concerning a free and fair trial and considers her a prisoner of conscience who might have fallen victim to the US-Iranian political controversies

3. Condemns the bail system practiced by the Iranian authorities in an attempt to suppress all public statements by critical citizens or peaceful reform movements and calls for the immediate release of Maryam Malek

4. Recalls that numerous labour rights activists remain incarcerated solely on the basis of their commitment to fair labour practices, including Mansour Osanloo, Ebrahim Maddadi, Farzad Kamangar and Ghaleb Hosseini and reiterates its call for their immediate release

5. Is shocked by the unfair trial and execution of Dilara Darabi and is appalled about the continued execution of juvenile offenders in total disregard of international law and despite the continued assurance by the Iranian authorities, including by President Ahmedinejad, that Iran halted this inhumane practice; calls on the Iranian authorities to honour their own promises

6 Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the member states, the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Head of the State Supreme Court of Iran and the Government and Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran.