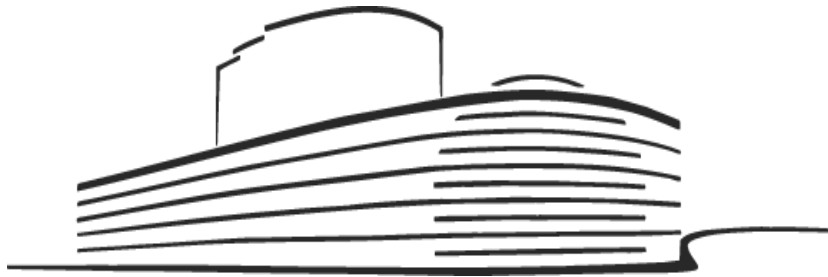


EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



2003 - 2004



TEXTS ADOPTED

at the sitting of

Thursday

5 June 2003

PART ONE

P5_TA-PROV(2003)06-05

PROVISIONAL EDITION

PE 332.953

EN

EN

P5_TA-PROV(2003)0272

Burma

{ TC"(B5-0297, 0303, 0305, 0306 and 0310/2003)"\l3 \n> * MERGEFORMAT }

PE 332.970

European Parliament resolution on the arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Burma and, in particular, its resolutions of 11 April 2002¹ and 13 March 2003²,
 - having regard to the Council's Common Position 96/635/CFSP of 28 October 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, on Burma/Myanmar³, as renewed and extended by the Council's Common Position 2003/297/CFSP of 28 April 2003 on Burma/Myanmar⁴,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 552/97 of 24 March 1997 temporarily withdrawing access to generalised tariff preferences from the Union of Myanmar⁵,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2000 of 22 May 2000 prohibiting the sale, supply and export to Burma/Myanmar of equipment which might be used for internal repression or terrorism, and freezing the funds of certain persons related to important governmental functions in that country⁶,
- A. whereas the dire political situation in Burma has deteriorated significantly in recent days,
- B. whereas Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD), was arrested on 31 May 2003 along with 19 other party members,
- C. recalling that Parliament awarded the Sakharov Prize for Human Rights to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who has also won the Nobel Prize,
- D. whereas, according to reports, at least 70 people have been killed in the attack by the junta army and its supporters against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in Upper Burma,
- E. whereas NLD members were the victims of an attack and were shot with catapults; soldiers also opened fire, killing and wounding a large number of NLD members, and whereas there are reports that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi suffered head injuries,

¹ OJ C 127 E, 29.5.2003, p. 681.

² P5_TA(2003)0104.

³ OJ L 287, 8.11.1996, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 106, 29.4.2003, p. 36.

⁵ OJ L 85, 27.3.1997, p. 8.

⁶ OJ L 122, 24.5.2000, p. 29.

- F. concerned about the lack of information concerning the plight of Mr Tin Oo, vice-chairman of the NLD, who was accompanying Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,
- G. whereas the NLD's main offices throughout Burma have been closed by the ruling military State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and universities and colleges have also been instructed to close,
- H. whereas almost exactly a year ago Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released after a long period of house arrest – a move welcomed at the time as a sign that the junta was ready for political reform,
- I. having regard to the political dialogue initiated under the auspices of the UN Special Envoy, Razili Ismael,
- J. whereas the visit of Razili Ismael to Rangoon, scheduled for 6 June, could be called into question if he is not given an opportunity to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,
- K. whereas more than 1000 people are still being detained in prison for political reasons,
1. Strongly condemns the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other detained NLD members and demands their immediate release;
 2. Demands that the SDC immediately cease its practice of perpetrating extrajudicial killings, systemic rape and political intimidation against the Burmese people;
 3. Reaffirms its strong commitment and full support for democratic, judicial and political change in Burma;
 4. Calls for the reopening of the NLD offices, and for the first credible steps towards the restoration of democracy in Burma to be taken;
 5. Calls for the immediate reopening of all universities in Burma;
 6. Calls on the Council to implement immediately the extension of the visa ban and assets freeze, as agreed in its aforementioned Common Position 2003/297/CFSP, the implementation of which was suspended until 29 October 2003 in the hope, now clearly lost, of progress being made towards the restoration of democracy and human rights;
 7. Demands that the SPDC relinquish its grip on power and that the results of the last elections held be fully respected;
 8. Calls on the Council and the Commission to show their readiness, in collaboration with the UN, to help facilitate the National Reconciliation process in Burma;
 9. Calls upon ASEAN states to take urgent action to bring about change for the better in Burma before there is more loss of life and a further deterioration of the economic and political situation in the country;

10. Calls on the Council to place the situation in Burma on the agenda of the next ASEM Foreign Ministers' meeting on 23-24 July in Bali;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the ASEAN Member States, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the UN Secretary General and the SPDC.