



Plenary sitting

B8-0073/2017

17.1.2017

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

pursuant to Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure

on Indonesia: the cases of Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua, and the Governor of Jakarta

(2017/2506(RSP))

Charles Tannock, Mark Demesmaeker, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Ryszard Czarnecki, Anna Elżbieta Fotyga, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Karol Karski, Monica Macovei, Branislav Škripek, Urszula Krupa, Ruža Tomašić, Raffaele Fitto, Angel Dzhambazki, Jana Žitňanská, Notis Marias
on behalf of the ECR Group

B8-0073/2017

**European Parliament resolution on Indonesia: the cases of Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua, and the Governor of Jakarta
(2017/2506(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Indonesia,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the EU and Indonesia,
 - having regard to the annual human rights dialogue between the EU and Indonesia launched in 2010,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Indonesia ratified in 2006,
 - having regard to Chapter 29 of the Indonesian Constitution, which guarantees freedom of religion,
 - having regard to Articles 156 and 156(a) of the Indonesian Criminal Code prohibiting blasphemy, heresy and religious defamation,
 - having regard to Presidential Decree No 1/PNPS/1965 on the prevention of blasphemy and abuse of religions,
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Indonesia is an important partner of the EU;
- B. whereas the conflict in West Papua has cost the lives of thousands of people since the 1960s;
- C. whereas President Joko Widodo has promised Papuans a change, beginning with “an open dialogue for a better Papua” and to stop disproportionate use of force and human rights abuses;
- D. whereas according to reports from West Papua, the situation has deteriorated with reportedly more than 3,000 people being arrested during peaceful protests in Papuan cities and in several other cities in Indonesia in May and June 2016;
- E. whereas on 19 December 2016 over 500 people were arrested for coordinated peaceful political activities in cities across Indonesia, most of which were released the day after without charge;

- F. whereas two activists from the pro-independence student organization West Papuan National Committee (KNPB), Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua, have been charged with “rebellion” under Articles 106 and 110 of the Indonesian Criminal Code and could face up to life imprisonment; whereas the two activists have been released on bail on 11 January 2017;
- G. whereas ethnic Chinese and Christian Basuki “Ahok” Tjahaja Purnam, became Jakarta's first non-Muslim governor for 50 years in 2014 and was ahead in the polls to win the governorship in February 2017;
- H. whereas the Islam Defenders Front (FPI) protests already since 2014 against his nomination and has recently filed a police report against Ahok alleging blasphemy, accusing him of having insulted the Koran, and want him to be prosecuted;
- I. whereas the accusations are based on a manipulation on social media of a speech held by Ahok in September 2016 where he told voters they should not be duped by religious leaders using a Koran verse to justify the claim that Muslims should not be led by non-Muslims;
- J. whereas three rallies, organized by a coalition of Islamist groups called the National Movement to Guard the MUI Fatwa (GNPF-MUI) including FPI members, have been staged since October 2016 calling for Ahok to be jailed for insulting Islam;
- K. whereas at 27 December 2016 an Indonesian court decided to proceed with a blasphemy trial based on Article 156 (a) of the Criminal Code against Ahok, who may face a jail term of up to five years if found guilty;
- L. whereas observers report increasing religious intolerance in Indonesia with the numbers of cases recorded in 2016 increasing to 97 from 76 in 2014 which entailed the restriction, destruction, and prohibition of places of worship, the restriction of prayers, and threats against religious groups;

1. Welcomes the close cooperation between the EU and Indonesia on a wide range of issues, including counter-terrorism, good governance, rule of law, justice and law enforcement and human rights; stresses the importance of the Human Rights Dialogue which allows an open exchange on human rights and democracy which are also the basis of the PCA;
2. Welcomes the release on bail of Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua but notes that the legal proceedings will continue; expresses its concern about the ongoing arrests of peaceful protesters in connection to the case of West Papua and stresses that nobody should be detained solely for exercising their rights on freedom of expression and assembly;
3. Is deeply concerned about the blasphemy case against Ahok; calls on the Indonesian authorities to drop the case against Ahok; urges in this respect the Indonesian authorities at all levels to comply with the Indonesian constitution and international

human rights standards regarding freedom of expression, thought, conscience and religion;

4. Calls on the Indonesian government to amend or repeal Article 156(a) of the Penal Code and to release anyone sentenced for “deviancy,” “denigrating religion,” or “blasphemy”;
5. Stresses the need for the Indonesian government to protect Indonesia’s tradition of religious tolerance and pluralism by investigating, arresting, and prosecuting individuals or groups who discriminate or commit acts of violence against religious communities;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the European External Action Service, the Member States, the Government and Parliament of Indonesia.