

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2015/2599(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on recent attacks and abductions by ISIS/Da'esh in the Middle East, notably of Assyrians		
Subject 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
12/03/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/03/2015	Debate in Parliament		
12/03/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0071/2015	Summary
12/03/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2015/2599(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Urgent debate or resolution
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 144
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B8-0240/2015	09/03/2015	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B8-0240/2015	09/03/2015		
Motion for a resolution		B8-0253/2015	10/03/2015	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0254/2015	10/03/2015	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0256/2015	10/03/2015	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0259/2015	10/03/2015	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0262/2015	10/03/2015	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0264/2015	10/03/2015	EP	

Resolution on recent attacks and abductions by ISIS/Da'esh in the Middle East, notably of Assyrians

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on recent attacks and abductions by ISIS/Daesh in the Middle East, notably of Assyrians.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, Greens/EFA, and EFDD groups.

Parliament stated that it was shocked and saddened at the brutal actions by ISIS/Daesh extremists against the Assyrians in Syria and the Copts in Libya. It strongly condemned ISIS/Daesh and its egregious human rights abuses that amounted to crimes against humanity and war crimes, and which could be called genocide. Members were extremely concerned at this terrorist groups deliberate targeting of Christians, Yezidis, Turkmen, Shiites, Shabak, Sabbeans, Kakae and Sunnis who did not agree with their interpretation of Islam, as part of its attempts to exterminate any religious minorities from the areas under its control. There must be no impunity for the perpetrators of these acts and those responsible should be referred to the ICC.

ISIS expansion to other countries: Parliament urged the EU and its Member States to take a proactive and preventive approach towards the threat of ISIS/Daesh expansion into countries and regions beyond Iraq and Syria. It was extremely concerned about the situation in Libya, not least because of its geographical proximity to the EU as well as to conflict areas in Africa.

Members encouraged cooperation with newly emerging regional and local forces, such as the Kurdish Regional Government in Iraq, and the Syriac Military Council, as well as local self-governing entities in the region which had shown more commitment to human rights and democracy than their countries rulers. They saluted, in particular, the courage of the Kurdish Peshmerga forces who had done so much to protect endangered minorities.

Financing: Parliament urged the EU and its Member States, as well as NATO partners, to address the issue of certain countries ambivalent roles in the conflict, in particular where they contribute to the rise of ISIS/Daesh and other extremist groups. In this context, Parliament referred to the financing of the dissemination of the Wahhabi interpretation of Islam by public and private entities of countries from the Gulf region. It called upon these countries to stop this financing, and also asked Turkey to play a positive role and allow Christian minorities and other persecuted people fleeing from Syria to cross the border into Turkey.

Other recommendations: Parliament urged the EU to:

- use well-established networks of local and regional churches, as well as international relief organisations of churches, to provide financial and other assistance, in order to ensure that all minority groups could benefit from the protection and support of European aid;
- start working with international and regional partners on a post-ISIS/Daesh scenario, taking into account the urgent need for cultural and religious dialogue and reconciliation;
- cooperate with international and local partners to safeguard as much Assyrian and other cultural and religious heritage as possible from the territories occupied by ISIS/Daesh and also take action against the illicit trade in ancient artefacts coming from these territories;
- further explore counter-terrorism policies, other than those already in place, and continue to work with Member States to enhance policies that counter radicalisation on EU soil, the spreading of hate speech and incitement to violence online.

Parliament believed that in order to stem the suffering and the mass exodus of Christians and other indigenous populations of the region, a clear and unequivocal statement by regional political and religious leaders, in support of their continued presence and full and equal rights as citizens of their countries, was necessary. It urged all UN member states to clearly speak out against the violence and in particular in favour of the rights of minorities.