

Procedure file

| Basic information | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects | 2017/2608(RSP) | Procedure completed |
| Resolution on Zimbabwe, the case of Pastor Evan Mawarire and other cases of restriction of freedom of expression | | |
| Subject 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general | | |
| Geographical area Zimbabwe | | |

| Key players | |
|---------------------|--|
| European Parliament | |

| Key events | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|---|---------|
| 16/03/2017 | Results of vote in Parliament |  | |
| 16/03/2017 | Debate in Parliament |  | |
| 16/03/2017 | Decision by Parliament | T8-0086/2017 | Summary |
| 16/03/2017 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |

| Technical information | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Procedure reference | 2017/2608(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 | | B8-0191/2017 | 16/03/2017 | EP | |
| Motion for a resolution | | B8-0194/2017 | 16/03/2017 | EP | |
| Motion for a resolution | | B8-0196/2017 | 16/03/2017 | EP | |
| Motion for a resolution | | B8-0200/2017 | 16/03/2017 | EP | |
| Motion for a resolution | | B8-0224/2017 | 16/03/2017 | EP | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T8-0086/2017 | 16/03/2017 | EP | Summary |

Resolution on Zimbabwe, the case of Pastor Evan Mawarire and other cases of restriction of freedom of expression

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Zimbabwe, the case of Pastor Evan Mawarire and other cases of restriction of freedom of expression.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the S&D, ECR, ALDE, Greens/EFA, EFDD and ENF groups.

Parliament deplored the arrest of Pastor Evan Mawarire, a human rights activist and founder of the #ThisFlag independent social media movement, who was arrested on 1 February 2017 at Harare airport on his return to Zimbabwe.

Evan Mawarire catalysed the frustration of citizens with the Mugabe regime during last years protests against the governments inaction against corruption, impunity and poverty.

Initially charged with subverting a constitutional government, an offence which is punishable with imprisonment for up to 20 years and then with insulting a flag, Pastor Evan Mawarire was only released on bail after having spent nine days in custody. Members called for the political motivated charges against him to be withdrawn. The fate of other militants should also be examined.

Concerned by human rights organisations reports of political violence, Parliament called on the Zimbabwean authorities to ensure that the criminal justice system is not misused to target, harass or intimidate human rights defenders, while recalling that the freedom of assembly, association and expression are essential components of any democracy.

The resolution stressed the importance for the EU to start up a political dialogue with the Zimbabwean authorities in the framework of the Cotonou Agreement. It also:

- called on the EU Delegation in Harare to continue to offer its assistance to Zimbabwe in order to improve the human rights situation in the country;
- insisted that the EU must ensure that the funding allocated to Zimbabwe for its national indicative programme effectively addresses the sectors concerned.