

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr CAPANNA

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the violation of human rights in Uruguay
and on the fate of RAUL SENDIC and eight
other Uruguayan freedom fighters

The European Parliament,

- having regard to:
 - the final declaration of the Russell Tribunal (1974),
 - the report on the Amnesty International/International Commission of Jurists mission to Uruguay (1974),
 - the report on the mission undertaken by Mr Choucq of the International Commission of Jurists (1975),
 - the report on the Joinet-Weil mission (International Human Rights Federation, International Movement of Catholic Jurists and International Movement of Democratic Jurists) (1975),
 - the campaign conducted by Amnesty International in connection with Uruguay (1976),
 - the suspension by the USA of military aid to Uruguay (1976),
 - the breaking-off of diplomatic relations between Venezuela and Uruguay following the arrest on the territory of the Venezuelan Embassy in Montevideo of a teacher seeking political asylum (1976),
 - the report of the International American States Commission (1977),
 - the declaration made at the third meeting of Latin American and European Members of Parliament (1977),
 - the examination by the United Nations Human Rights Commission of accusations concerning the violation of rights in Uruguay (1978),
 - the letter from the European Community to the Uruguayan authorities calling for an amnesty for political prisoners and respect for human rights in Uruguay (1978),
- having been informed of the brutal treatment of political prisoners, of the systematic torture of RAUL SENDIC ANTONACCIO and of the serious threat to his life and to the lives of the eight other 'hostages' (ENGLER, FERNANDEZ, MANERA, MARENALES, MUJICA, ROSENCOFF, WASSEN and ZABALZA) in the hands of the fascist Uruguayan regime (see Annex I),
 1. Calls for the immediate release of RAUL SENDIC ANTONACCIO, of the eight other hostages and of all political prisoners;
 2. Requests the Governments of the Member States and the Council to make formal representations to the Uruguayan Government with a view to securing the release of the prisoners referred to in paragraph 1;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Uruguayan authorities and to the Council.

Annex

After being arrested in September 1972, RAUL SENDIC ANTONACCIO was taken to the military hospital to receive treatment for the many injuries he had sustained. The most serious of these injuries - to the face - had resulted in the loss of the use of the lower jaw.

In 1973 he was transferred to the 'Liberated' prison (EMR No. 1). In July of the same year, Raul Sendic and eight other freedom fighters (Jorge Manera, Julio Marenales, Eleuterio Fernandez, José Majiuca, Mauricio Rossencoff, Henry Engler, Jorge Zabalza and Adolfo Wassen) were taken as hostages and transferred separately to nearby barracks where they were kept in solitary confinement. The officers in command of these barracks informed them that, if the MLN continued its activities, they would be executed.

Since 1976 Sendic has been kept in the prison at Genio a Paso de los Toros, a town situated in the province of Tacuarembò, 300 km north of Montevideo. He had to undergo an operation for inguinal hernia that could well have caused an intestinal obstruction, while at the same time he continued to receive surgical treatment to the face.

In February 1978, when the stiches in the lower jaw came out, he was taken to the dentist, where he was tortured, but put up resistance.

From then onwards Raul Sendic was subjected to every conceivable form of torture and ill-treatment, including a three-month 'planten' in the course of which he was allowed to rest for only a few hours in the morning, deprivation of food, periodic beatings and mental cruelty.

In reply to repeated requests from his family, the prison authorities merely said that, pending new instructions, the detainee could receive neither visitors nor clothes and food parcels. He was refused any letters and even elastic bandages and hernia straps.

In May Raul Sendic received his first visitor after a three-month period of solitary confinement. His condition was appalling. Although doctors ordered that he should be taken to hospital for an emergency operation, the prison authorities and Military Division No. 3 refused to release him.

At present he cannot even bend down to tie up his shoelaces because of the severity of his hernia and he can only be fed on liquids, which he takes through a straw, being absolutely incapable of chewing. He has rapidly lost weight and he cannot move unaided.