

Thursday 15 February 2001

## **18. Human rights: Nigeria**

**B5-0109, 0119, 0127, 0138 and 0148/2001**

### **European Parliament resolution on human rights in Nigeria**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the CFSP statement of 30 January 2001 on corporal punishment in Zamfara state (Nigeria),
  - A. deeply concerned by the case of the young girl, Bariya Ibrahim Magazu, who was sentenced to a hundred lashes on 19 January 2001 at the Higher Sharia court of Tsafe, in the state of Zamfara, Nigeria, for having sexual relations outside of marriage,
  - B. whereas since 1999 eight northern states of Nigeria have introduced Islamic law, creating severe problems in relations between the different communities in those states,
  - C. whereas the Nigerian Constitution adopted in 1999 guarantees total freedom of belief,
    - 1. Condemns the flogging of an underage girl, sentenced under Zamfara state legislation, and stresses that she received this punishment while an application for leave to appeal was still pending before the courts;
    - 2. Considers flogging a cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment which contravenes the Nigerian Constitution and the international conventions on human rights to which Nigeria is party;
    - 3. Urges the authorities to allow defendants sentenced to corporal punishment to exercise their full rights of appeal to higher courts and not to obstruct their attempts to do so on procedural grounds;
    - 4. Stresses the peaceful and legal action taken by both Muslim and Christian human rights groups in Nigeria on these issues;
    - 5. Calls on the European Union to improve the dialogue with Nigeria, with a view to strengthening the existing processes in Nigeria towards the consolidation of democracy and respect for human rights and religious freedoms;
    - 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Nigerian Government and Parliament.

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## **19. Human rights: Freedom of expression in Pakistan**

**B5-0110, 0120, 0129, 0139 and 0149/2001**

### **European Parliament resolution on the arrest of seven journalists and freedom of expression in Pakistan**

*The European Parliament,*

- A. expressing deep concern at news that seven journalists face the death penalty for blasphemy after Pakistan's military regime closed down an English-language newspaper for publishing a reader's letter,
- B. whereas hundreds of protesters from a right-wing Islamic party set fire to the printing presses of the 'Frontier Post' in the Peshawar newspaper's offices,