

Assembly
Item 2

A/127/2-P.1
3 October 2012

CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE REQUESTS FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN EMERGENCY ITEM IN THE ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 127th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

On 11 September 2012, the Secretary General received from the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 127th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The violence perpetrated by armed terrorist groups against Christians and other minorities in Syria and attempts to drive them out of Syria",

Delegates to the 127th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 127th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic on Monday, 22 October 2012.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request. The Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Members.

Furthermore, Assembly Rule 11.2 stipulates that:

- (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a major event of international concern on which it appears necessary for the IPU to express its opinion. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted;
- (b) The Assembly may place only one emergency item on its agenda. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted;
- (c) The authors of two or more requests for the inclusion of an emergency item may combine their proposals to present a joint one, provided that each of the original proposals relates to the same subject;
- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the request and title of the subject adopted by the Assembly.

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

30 September 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Further to our letter of 10 September 2012 concerning the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 127th Assembly entitled:

"The violence perpetrated by armed terrorist groups against Christians and other minorities in Syria and attempts to drive them out of Syria"

we wish to provide the following explanations in the enclosed Memorandum.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Mohammed Aid AL HAMMAL
Secretary General of the People's Assembly
of the Syrian Arab Republic

**THE VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY ARMED TERRORIST GROUPS AGAINST CHRISTIANS
AND OTHER MINORITIES IN SYRIA AND ATTEMPTS TO DRIVE THEM OUT OF SYRIA**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

The People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic is proposing this item for various reasons:

- Because the People's Assembly is convinced that the IPU will make serious efforts to strengthen cooperation between peoples and societies with all of their religious and ethnic components, preserve the foundations of co-existence between the national components of States, a co-existence of which Syria has given and gives a unique example since its ancient history until the present day, protecting the freedom of belief and respecting difference and diversity in the spirit of the pontifical call made by His Holiness John Paul II during his historical visit to Syria in 2001 and echoed by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI during his most recent visit to Beirut.
- The IPU knows only too well that the main reason why Christians are fleeing the Middle East, and Syria in particular, is because of the violence and terrorism perpetrated against them by armed terrorist groups that embrace the thinking of Al-Qaida and uphold the anathema, a way of thinking based on murder – be it of citizens or inhabitants of any region in the world – for a mere difference of opinion, knowing that such groups receive the unlimited support of certain governments and States.
- The IPU is also well aware of the steps taken by certain western parties that wish to take advantage of the situation of Middle East Christians, facilitating their exodus on the pretext of defending them although their ulterior motive is to strip Syria - the cradle of Christianity - of its genuine Christians so that they will not participate in the construction of its political and cultural future and the enrichment of its legacy of knowledge as they have always done throughout its long history.
- The events currently occurring in Syria - the manoeuvres of armed terrorist groups that threaten Christians and target their churches - bring to mind the fate inflicted on Iraq during the US invasion and what is taking place in Palestine, where Israeli violations have forced Christians to opt for mass exile. Is not the desire to empty the birthplace of Christ of its Christians and erase the unifying identity of this land not plain for all to see?
- The People's Assembly hopes that the Inter-Parliamentary Union and all its Members will consider in a responsible and objective manner the developments in Syria, that they will condemn the terrorism perpetrated by armed terrorist groups as well as the campaigns that incite hatred waged by certain media and encourage Syrian brothers to choose the path of political dialogue in order to achieve the desired change under a pluralistic political regime guaranteed by the new Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic. For all these reasons, the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic presents the following draft resolution.

**THE VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY ARMED TERRORIST GROUPS AGAINST CHRISTIANS
AND OTHER MINORITIES IN SYRIA AND ATTEMPTS TO DRIVE THEM OUT OF SYRIA**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The 127th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- 1) *Upholds* the principles of the sovereignty and independence of the Syrian Arab Republic, *recognizes* the need to preserve its territorial integrity, seek international parliamentary consensus aimed at restoring security and stability in Syria, cease the bloodshed, destruction, killing, terrorization of innocent civilians as well as measures taken to drive them into exile into neighbouring States;
- 2) *Recalls* previous IPU resolutions dealing with respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs and domestic policy;
- 3) *Condemns* the terrorist acts carried out by armed groups against Syrians of all origins, notably by targeting churches and mosques which they use as bases; *also condemning* the terrorist attacks against public and private property, the most recent of which was perpetrated against Saadallah al-Jabiry Square in Aleppo, mindful that this attack was condemned by the UN Security Council in a statement of 5 October 2012;
- 4) *Supports* the proposal of the Syrian People's Assembly aimed at reaffirming citizens of all spiritual and religious persuasions in their land and country, working towards an international law allowing the national parliaments that are IPU Members to draw up corresponding laws, taking measures aimed at ending the campaigns against Middle East Christians, ensuring that their situation is not exploited and they are not driven into exile, and lastly, providing them with adequate humanitarian assistance so that they may remain in their country.