



Motion on the Presidential Elections in Iran

Adopted by the Annual Meeting of EDS in Cyprus at 23rd July 2009

Presented by KLiKS Serbia and SAU Slovenia

The presidential elections in the Islamic Republic of Iran were held on 12th June 2009 with the incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad officially receiving 66 % of the votes cast. Internationally the elections were condemned as biased and undemocratic. More than 646 complaints about the electoral irregularities were filed by the defeated candidates, including the official announcement of the number of votes exceeding the number of eligible voters by 3 million in 50 cities. Furthermore, the electoral system subjects all candidates to strict vetting by the Guardian Council, whose clerical members are all appointed by the Supreme Leader himself.

During the campaign hundreds of thousands Iranians participated to demonstrations in favour of the main opposition candidate Mir Hussein Mousavi, in the streets of Tehran and other Iranian cities. Iranian authorities responded by calling the police forces and the Basij paramilitary militias to suppress these peaceful protests, resulting in the brutal killings of more than 20 demonstrators and the arresting of over 400.

It is good to remember that the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the most authoritarian regimes with an extremely worrying human rights record, as concretely stated in the UN report A/63/459 and the European Parliament Annual Report on Human Rights in the World 2008. During his time in office, Ahmadinejad has exercised highly controversial actions, such as continuous denial of the Holocaust and refusal to cooperate effectively with the UN regarding the nuclear enrichment programme.

We, the European Democrat Students, the student organisation of the European People's Party,

- Express support and solidarity with the Iranians who resort to legitimate expression of disagreement with the oppressive system expressed through election rigging
- Strongly condemn the excessive use of force by the Iranian regime and deplore the deaths and injuries of the protestors,
- Regret that no transparent and independent investigation of the electoral irregularities has been carried out
- Warn that respect and guarantee of the civil and political rights also constitute the international law obligation of Iran by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Iran ratified in 1976, thus demand its fulfilment and adequate sanctions of the violations,

- Condemn impeding the means of communication, such as closing the opposition media, disrupting internet and mobile services and expelling of foreign journalists,
- Encourage the Iranians, especially the Iranian youth, to continue their legitimate strive for freedom, democracy and prosperity,
- Believe that the international community must carefully monitor the further human rights and security situation in Iran and raise awareness of the gravest human rights violations, such as death penalty, juvenile executions and gender discrimination, and especially call for an active and a more decisive role of the European Union and the Council of Europe in this respect