

FINAL

MOTION
On Saudi Arabia

For the EDS Council meeting April 9, 2011 in Budapest (Hungary)
Presented by PWG Human rights

Recent months have seen the unrest caused by friction between pro-democracy forces and totalitarian leadership in Tunisia spread across the Arab region. World focus is currently on the fighting raging in Libya, but there are several other countries that face upheaval. Some of these states are attempting dialogue with protestors, whilst others are retaliating with force to silence democratic voices.

Saudi Arabia has not been immune to the unrest sweeping the Arab world. Pro-democracy protests have been swiftly and harshly crushed, with the Saudi leadership making full use of its pervasive security forces, and state controlled media.

Additionally, The UN human rights chief has condemned the "shocking" use of force by security forces against protesters in Bahrain, now bolstered by troops from Saudi Arabia. As a result we are now witnessing Saudi efforts to repress democratic reform in not one, but two states.

We note the support of Saudi Arabia for UN objectives in Libya. However, we are concerned that this makes it harder to, and will discourage European states from, criticising Saudi actions both within their own country and their neighbour Bahrain to suppress pro-democracy protests.

We, the European Democrat Students, youth organisation of the European People's Party, call upon the European Union,

- to condemn the leadership of Saudi Arabia's actions against her own people,
- to impress upon the Saudi leadership the need to immediately withdraw all troops from Bahraini territory,

- to encourage the Saudi leadership to enter into a peaceful and constructive discussion with her people regarding democratic reforms,
- furthermore we call upon the European Union to condemn all Arab, and other, states that repress democratic debate within their borders equally, regardless of their status as 'allies of the West'.