



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Plenary sitting

8.3.2011

B7-0188/2011

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 122 of the Rules of Procedure

on the Belarus, in particular the cases of Ales Michalevic and Natalia Radin

Charles Tannock, Michał Tomasz Kamiński, Adam Bielan, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Marek Henryk Migalski, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Jacek Olgierd Kurski, Konrad Szymański, Paweł Robert Kowal, Ryszard Czarnecki
on behalf of the ECR Group

European Parliament resolution on the Belarus, in particular the cases of Ales Michalevic and Natalia Radin

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Belarus,
- having regard to Council conclusions on Belarus, 3065th Foreign Affairs Council meeting, Brussels, 31 January 2011,
- having regard to the Council Decision 2011/69/CFSP amending the list of individuals subject to restrictive measures to include persons responsible for the violations of international electoral standards in the presidential elections in Belarus on 19 December 2010,
- having regard to the address by Commissioner Štefan Füle at the extraordinary meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on Belarus, Brussels, 12 January 2011,
- having regard to the Joint Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the post-Presidential Elections situation in Belarus, Brussels, 23 December 2010,
- having regard to the Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the presidential elections in Belarus, Brussels, 20 December 2010,
- having regard to the Statement by the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the conviction and sentencing of Belarusian opposition representative, Brussels, 18 February 2011,
- having regard to the Amnesty International, Report: "Security, Peace and Order"? Violations in the wake of elections in Belarus, 2 February 2011,
- having regard to the Amnesty International, Urgent action: Opposition activist tortured in detention, 23 December 2010,
- having regard to Rule 122(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas over 700 people, including all opposition presidential candidates, were detained during and after the dispersal of peaceful demonstration on 19 December 2010, whereas many were beaten by the riot police,

B. whereas Ales Michalevic, one of the opposition presidential candidates, revealed after his release from two months' custody that he was physically and mentally tortured in KGB prison in Minsk, forced to condemn the rally of 19 December 2010 and sign an agreement to cooperate with the Belarusian security service (KGB),

C. whereas Natalia Radzina, journalist of the Charter'97 site, was detained after the opposition demonstration on 19 December 2010, held in custody for one month, then put under house arrest and then detained again by the police on 1 March 2011,

D. whereas another journalist, Tatsiana Bublikava, faced threats and warnings from the police and authorities,

E. whereas repression and politically motivated trials against opposition and human right defenders after the events of 19 December 2010 continue to this day, with at least 38 people accused in the criminal case of mass riot, and 12 more being suspects in the case, whereas these offences could carry prison sentences of up to 15 years,

F. whereas four activists and participants in the demonstrations of 19 December 2010, Vasil Pafiankou, Alyaksandr Malchanau, Dzmitry Novik and Alyaksandr Atroshchankau, were found guilty of participation in "mass riots" and sentenced to up to four years in a penal colony by the Belarusian court,

G. whereas some lawyers defending those charged with organizing the demonstrations were threatened with disciplinary action, including disbarment,

1. Strongly condemns the detention and inhuman and degrading treatment of opposition figures and political prisoners by the Lukashenko regime;

2. Condemns the harassment of free media and civil society organisations, including unlawful actions taken against Charter 97, confiscation of all its computers and the placing of all the journalists present in the editorial office under house arrest; condemns similar actions taken against Uladimir Niaklaieu's "Tell the Truth" civic campaign; calls on the authorities to respect the freedom of expression and pluralism of media in Belarus;

3. Reiterates its call for the release of all the opposition figures held in detention, the provision of unhindered access for the detainees to relatives and medical care and a guarantee of a fair and just trial for those accused in the criminal case on mass riot;

4. Strongly condemns the methods used by the KGB, including torture, harassment of detainees relatives, threats and using force in order to obtain false confessions from those held in custody;

5. Calls on the authorities to ensure that lawyers are able to defend the rights of their clients unhindered and to ensure that all those detained are offered unimpeded and confidential access to their lawyers; condemns decision taken by the Minsk City College of Lawyers to withdraw the licences of some of the defenders of those accused in the criminal case of mass riot, including Aleh Ahiejev, Tatiana Ahijeva, Uladzimir Touseik and Tamata Harajeva and calls on the Minsk City College of Lawyers for annulment of this decision;

6. Calls for fair and free appeal proceedings for the four people already sentenced to penal colony in relation to the 19 December 2010 rallies;

7. Welcomes the Council Decision 2011/69/CFSP amending the list of individuals subject to

restrictive measures to include persons responsible for the violations of international electoral standards in the presidential elections in Belarus on 19 December 2010 and declaration by numerous non – EU countries that their national policies will conform to this Council Decision; calls on the Council to consider further targeted sanctions against members of the Lukashenka regime; calls on the Council, however, to correct errors that appeared in the list, including mistakes in the spelling of their names and description of their functions;

8. Welcomes the Council decision to start the negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission agreement with the aim of enabling the visa – free travel for students and members of civil society;

9. Reiterates its call to the EU and its Member States to increase their financial support to Belarusian civil society, independent media and NGOs;

10. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to review the Law on Public Events and bring it into line with the requirements of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

11. Welcomes the resolution adopted by the Polish Parliament, Sejm, on 25 February condemning the regime of Belarusian President for repression of political opponents following a December election and demanding the immediate release of political prisoners;

12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, to the Council, to the Council of Europe and to the Secretary General of the United Nations.