



Plenary sitting

B8-0557/2017

3.10.2017

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

pursuant to Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure

on the cases of Crimean Tatar leaders Akhtem Chiygoz, Ilmi Umerov and journalist Mykola Semena
(2017/2869(RSP))

Cristian Dan Preda, Michael Gahler, Sandra Kalniete, Dubravka Šuica, Sven Schulze, Tunne Kelam, Lefteris Christoforou, Ivan Štefanec, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Mairead McGuinness, David McAllister, Marijana Petir, Pavel Svoboda, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Tomáš Zdechovský, Elisabetta Gardini, Claude Rolin, Jaromír Štětina, Michaela Šojdrová, Milan Zver, Csaba Sógor, József Nagy, Brian Hayes, Adam Szejnfeld, Luděk Niedermayer, Patricija Šulin, Anna Záborská, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Deirdre Clune, Andrey Kovatchev, Seán Kelly, Jiří Pospíšil, Dariusz Rosati, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso

on behalf of the PPE Group

B8-0557/2017

European Parliament resolution on the cases of Crimean Tatar leaders Akhtem Chyigoz, Ilmi Umerov and journalist Mykola Semena (2017/2869(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EU - Ukraine Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area;
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Ukraine and on Crimea, on the European Neighbourhood Policy, on the Eastern Partnership and in particular its resolution of 21 January 2016 on the Association Agreements and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine and the resolution of 4 February 2016 on the human rights situation in Crimea, the resolution of 12 May 2016 on the Crimean Tatars and the resolution of 16 March 2017 on the Ukrainian prisoners in Russia and situation in Crimea;
 - having regard to the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 25 September 2017 on the “Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)”
 - having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 entitled ‘Territorial integrity of Ukraine’ and to the UN General Assembly Resolution 71/205 of 19 December 2016, entitled ‘Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)’
 - having regard to the Council decisions continuing the sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation in relation to the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula;
 - having regard to the ruling of the so-called “Crimean Supreme Court” of 26 April 2016, which found the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People to be an extremist organisation and banned its activity in the Crimean peninsula;
 - having regard to the sentencing of Ilmi Umerov by the so-called “Crimean Supreme Court” in Simferopol on 27 September 2017 to two years of penitentiary colony detention,
 - having regard to the sentencing of Akhtem Chyigoz by the so-called “Crimean Supreme Court” in Simferopol of 11 September 2017, sentencing to eight years of imprisonment;
 - having regard to the sentencing of Mykola Semena by the so-called “Crimean Supreme Court” in Simferopol on 22 September 2017 to two and a half years of suspended prison;
 - having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of Procedure;
- A. whereas there are numerous and credible reports of increasing abuse of human rights in Crimea, not least against representatives of the Crimean Tatars and against journalists,

media workers and against those that speak up against the Crimean de facto authorities or against the Russian Federation

- B. whereas Ilmi Umerov, Crimean Tatar Leader and Deputy Chair of Mejlis, was convicted to a period of two years for voicing dissent against the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula, under Article 280.1 of the Russian criminal code on “public calls to action aimed at violating Russia’s territorial integrity” ;
 - C. whereas Akhtem Chyigoz, Deputy Chair of the Mejlis, was convicted to eight years of imprisonment for “organising mass disturbances” on 26 February 2014;
 - D. whereas journalist Mykola Semena received a suspended prison sentence for a period of two-and-a-half years, which includes a ban on conducting journalistic work on the basis of Article 280.1 of the Russian criminal code on “public calls to action aimed at violating Russia’s territorial integrity”;
 - E. whereas the recent court rulings prove that the judicial system is being instrumentalized as a political tool to repress those opposed to the Russian annexation of the Crimean peninsula;
 - F. whereas the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation is illegal and in violation of international law and European agreements signed by both the Russian Federation and Ukraine, notably the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and the 1997 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation;
 - G. whereas during the duration of the annexation the Russian Federation is to be held responsible for the protection of the people and citizens of Crimea, through the de-facto authorities present in the region;
1. Condemns the sentencing of Ilmi Umerov, Crimean Tatar Leader and Deputy Chair of Mejlis, for a period of two years for voicing dissent against the Russian annexation of the Crimean peninsula, which is a serious violation of his human rights, demands that the conviction be reversed and Mr Umerov immediately and unconditionally released;
 2. Condemns the sentencing of Akhtem Chyigoz, Deputy Chair of the Mejlis, to eight years of imprisonment for “organising mass disturbances” on 26 February 2014, the conviction is a violation of human rights and should be reversed and Mr Chyigoz immediately and unconditionally released;
 3. Condemns the sentencing of journalist Mykola Semena for a period of two- and-a-half years of suspended imprisonment, which includes a ban on conducting journalistic work, the conviction is a violation of the freedom of expression and of the media, demands that all charges against Mr Selmena be immediately and unconditionally dropped;
 4. Strongly condemns the harsh sentences against leaders of the Crimean Tatar community and others opposing the Russian annexation, such as Oleg Sentsov and Alexander Kolchenko, following farcical court proceedings and questionable charges; demands the repealing of the recent court rulings and the immediate release of those detained;

5. Condemns the discriminatory policies imposed by the so-called authorities against, in particular, Crimea's ethnic Tatar minority, the infringement of their property rights, the increasing intimidation of this community and of all those who oppose the Russian annexation;
6. Considers that the rights of the Crimean Tatars have been gravely violated through the banning of the activities of the Mejlis and strongly reiterates its call for the immediate reversal of the related decisions and its effects;
7. Recalls that the reality of repression has led the human rights situation on the Crimean peninsula to severely deteriorate, violation of freedom of speech and association is widespread, forced imposition of Russian citizenship has become systematic and fundamental freedoms are not guaranteed on the Crimean peninsula;
8. Reiterates its position that all illegally detained Ukrainian citizens in the Crimean peninsula and in the Russian Federation must be immediately and unconditionally released;
9. Expresses strong concern about numerous credible reports of cases of disappearances, torture and systematic intimidation of local citizens opposed to the annexation of Crimea, and calls on Russia to immediately cease the practices of persecution, to effectively investigate all cases of human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, torture and ill-treatment of detainees, and to respect the fundamental freedoms of all residents, including the freedoms of expression, religion or belief and association and the right to peaceful assembly; calls for all disappearances and kidnappings during the period of occupation of Crimea to be investigated immediately;
10. Calls on the European Union's Special Representative for Human Rights to pay continuous attention to the human rights situation in the Crimean peninsula;
11. Calls on the European Court for Human Rights to accept all applications for redress from Crimea with the highest priority possible, as the Russian domestic judicial system cannot and does not provide legal remedies in these cases;
12. Calls on the Russian authorities, as the occupational power in effective control of Crimea, to provide unhindered access to UN, OSCE and CoE human rights representatives to investigate the situation on the peninsula;
13. Underlines that further restrictive measures should be imposed on individuals responsible for gross human rights violations, including the freezing of assets in EU banks and travel bans; reiterates its support for the EU's decision to prohibit imports from Crimea, as well as for export of certain goods and technologies, investment, trade and services in Crimea;
14. Reminds the Russian Federation, as an occupational power in effective control over Crimea bound by the international humanitarian law and international human rights law, of its obligation to ensure the protection of human rights in the peninsula;
15. Reminds the Russian authorities that despite the illegality of the annexation of Crimea, Russia is, in a de facto capacity, fully responsible for upholding the legal order in Crimea and protecting Crimean citizens from arbitrary judicial or administrative measures;
16. Supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally

recognised borders and reiterates its condemnation of the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation;

17. Supports the policy of the EU and its Member States not to recognise the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula and to impose restrictive measures taken in this respect;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Member States, the President of Ukraine, the governments and parliaments of Ukraine and of the Russian Federation, the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.