



Plenary sitting

B8-0182/2016

2.2.2016

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 situation in Crimea, in particular of the Crimean Tatars
(2016/2556(RSP))

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on behalf of the ECR Group

B8-0182/2016

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Crimea, in particular of the Crimean Tatars (2016/2556(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Eastern Partnership (EaP), Ukraine, and the Russian Federation,
- having regard to the European Council decision (21 March, 27 June, 16 July 2014) imposing sanctions on the Russian Federation as a follow-up to the illegal annexation of Crimea,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 11 June 2015 on the strategic military situation in the Black Sea Basin following the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 21 January 2016 on Association Agreements / Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine,
- having regard to the Reports of the Human Rights Assessment Mission on Crimea conducted by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM),
- having regard to the Human Rights Watch World Report 2016 published on 27th January 2016,

A. Whereas the Russian Federation has illegally annexed Crimea, and therefore violated international law including the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum;

B. Whereas during the illegal annexation of Crimea Russia allegedly deployed troops of the Black Sea fleet against the Crimean Tatars, Ukrainians as well as the Ukrainian soldiers, who displayed courage and loyalty to Ukraine and peacefully opposed the belligerent act of annexation;

C. Whereas the Crimean Tatar leaders, such as Mustafa Dzhemilev and Refat Chubarov, were from the outset banned from entering into Crimea and now a Russian court has issued an arrest warrant for Dzhemilev, who earlier spend 15 years in Soviet prisons for his efforts to allow his nation to return to their native land in Crimea;

D. Whereas the human rights situation in Crimea, an particularly of Crimean Tatars has dramatically deteriorated, while the Crimean Tatar intellectuals, journalists and ordinary citizens who disagree with Russian authorities regularly disappear and are found dead with signs of torture;

E. Whereas Russian authorities put on trial and still hold as prisoners Akhtem Chyihoz, Ali Asanov and Mustafa Dehermendzhi, who on February 26, 2014 took part in peaceful rally in front of local parliament of Crimea in defence of their fatherland against Russian occupying troops.

F. Whereas the Ukrainian language has been removed from the public sphere, often through use of force; whereas Christian churches independent of Moscow have seen restrictions put on their activities;

G. Whereas on 12 November, 2015, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted a resolution in which it recognized the deportation of the Crimean Tatars in 1944 as genocide;

H. Whereas Ukraine seeks to start talks about de-occupation of Crimea in the Geneva plus format including EU and states that signed the Budapest Memorandum: Ukraine, Russia, United States, and the United Kingdom; whereas Russia refused to hold any talks on returning Crimea to Ukraine;

I. Whereas Russia refused to sign new energy supply contract with Kiev in protest against wording implying that Crimea is part of Ukraine; whereas Russia declared state of emergency in Crimea; whereas Russia in opposition to inter alia DCFTA EU-Ukraine imposed trade restrictions against Ukraine, including ban on food imports;

1. condemns systemic violation by the Russian occupation authorities of the fundamental rights and liberties of local population, particularly targeting the Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians, including numerous and continuous cases of murders, tortures and intimidations;
2. condemns biased and selective criminal prosecutions against Crimean Tatar and pro-Ukrainian activists and organisations, including leaders of Crimean Tatar people Mustafa Dzhemilev and Refat Chubarov;
3. calls the Russian authorities to immediately release from illegal imprisonment Oleg Sentsov, Nadia Savchenko, who are kept in Russia as political prisoners, as well as all other Ukrainian citizens illegally detained in Russia and at the territory of the illegally annexed Crimea, including citizens of Crimean Tatar ethnicity including Akhtem Chyihoz, Ali Asanov and Mustafa Dehermendzhi;
4. condemns militarisation of the Crimean peninsula and Russia's threats to deploy nuclear weapons in Crimea, which constitutes significant threat to the regional, European and global security;
5. calls Russia to withdraw of all its forces from Ukraine including eastern Ukraine as well as Crimea, including the Black Sea fleet troops, which allegedly took part in the illegal annexation of Crimea.
6. calls the Council to elaborate the next set of sanctions against Russia regarding its illegal annexation of Crimea, since Russia refuses to stop violation of human rights in Crimea and the militarisation of the peninsula;
7. calls the Council and the EEAS to strengthen pressure on Russia to allow access of international organisations to Crimea for monitoring human rights situation in view of the ongoing gross violations of fundamental freedoms and human rights in the peninsula, establishing permanent international monitoring and conventional mechanisms; to stress that any international presence on the ground should be coordinated with Ukraine and include the leading role of the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights;
8. Calls for better access for international human rights monitoring organisations to all cases of serious human rights abuses in Crimea; calls on the Ukrainian Government to use all means at its disposal to investigate and prosecute war crimes committed on its territory; calls on the international community, including the Hague Tribunal, to

commence an investigation into the potential crimes committed during the illegal annexation of Crimea and afterwards;

9. supports initiative of Ukraine to establish international negotiation mechanism on reestablishment of Ukrainian sovereignty over Crimea in the “Geneva plus” format;
10. calls Russia to start negotiations with Ukraine and other parties on de-occupation of Crimea, lifting trade and energy embargos and to recall state of emergency in Crimea;
11. welcomes recent declarations of Turkey on Ukraine and Crimea, which are more consistent with the positions of Member States, EU and NATO;
12. instructs President to forward this resolution to 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 the Eastern Partnership countries and of the Russian Federation, and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.