



Plenary sitting

B9-0192/2022

5.4.2022

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 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on Increasing repression in Russia, including the case of Alexey Navalny (2022/2622(RSP))

Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Raffaele Fitto, Anna Fotyga, Karol Karski, Adam Bielan, Dace Melbārde, Ladislav Ilčić, Elżbieta Rafalska, Ryszard Czarnecki, Roberts Zile, Bogdan Rzońca, Alexandr Vondra, Assita Kanko, Angel Dzhambazki, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Anna Zalewska, Hermann Tertsch, Patryk Jaki, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Eugen Jurzyca, Valdemar Tomaševski, Witold Jan Waszczykowski
on behalf of the ECR Group

European Parliament resolution on Increasing repression in Russia, including the case of Alexey Navalny (2022/2622(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia,
 - having regard to the UN Charter, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 OSCE Charter of Paris,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) and (4) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Russia's war against Ukraine has been preceded by policy of rehabilitation of Stalinist's crimes and defending of Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, and accompanied by a wave of repression against Russian individuals, civil society organizations and independent media organizations, creating preconditions for an unjust and unprovoked war against Ukraine while Russia's policies threatening peace and security in Europe in a goal to impose a new global security architecture;
- B. whereas the human rights situation in Russia includes violations of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, property rights, severe restrictions imposed on education and language rights and media abuse which have become a systematic approach by Putin's regime to deny fundamental human rights and freedoms to Russian citizens and turned back Russia into a totalitarian state;
- C. whereas tens of thousands of Russian citizens have fled Russia, due to the increasing repression throughout the country and climate of restoration of dictatorship;
- D. whereas Russia's disinformation campaign against Ukraine, EU and NATO Member States further intensifies with a false narrative alleging that Russia's recent full scale invasion of Ukraine is in fact a 'special military operation' and that it is Ukraine that provoked a conflict with Russia, accompanied by a massive, more than tenfold spike in social media activity pushing anti-Ukrainian and anti-Western propaganda;
- E. whereas repressive and vaguely worded legislation has gradually circumscribed the activities of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), journalists but even individuals, imposing total censorship, whereas Russia's General Prosecutor offices decreed that citizens who criticize Russia's 'special military operation' can be tried for treason while new laws concerning 'discrediting' or 'calling for obstruction' of the Russian military can carry a sentence of up to 15 years in prison;

- F. whereas Russia's Supreme Court upheld its decision to shut down one of the country's most venerated human rights groups, International Memorial, amid a continued crackdown on civil society throughout the country and continues to oppress individual historians and researchers;
 - G. whereas the policy of repression against media and academic freedom has led to the suspension of Novaya Gazeta, a leading independent newspaper, 'limitation' of independent news website Meduza, Mediazona, Republic and Sobesednik, Echo of Moscow radio, TV Rain, Aktivica, Svoboda and Znak while foreign media including Deutsche Welle, Radio Free Europe, BBC, CNN, Bloomberg News, ABC, CBS News, CBC/Radio-Canada and German broadcaster Deutsche Welle have all been forced to censor reporting on the war;
 - H. whereas Russia's authorities have limited the freedom of speech and media freedoms to the extent similar to the most oppressive dictatorships, trying to isolate the society from any information source of independent information questioning official propaganda, including social media platforms;
 - I. whereas OVD-Info, an independent Russian human rights media project, reports over 15,000 protest-related arrests of Russian citizens as of 30 March 2022, which were met with police brutality and detention;
 - J. whereas the current Russian regimes scale of internal oppression and external aggression has solidified Russia as not only a repressive dictatorship, with the scale of repressions and limitation of freedom similar to the darkest times of the Soviet Union, but a totalitarian-fascist state;
 - K. whereas the Russian government added Navalny to the 'extremist and terrorist' federal registry in January 2022;
 - L. whereas Moscow's Lefortovski Court sentenced Alexei Navalny to nine years in a maximum security prison after having already unjustly served 2.5 years in prison and is currently detained in a penal colony east of Moscow, where his basic rights have been repeatedly violated;
 - M. whereas in a recent statement, Navalny referred to the war as a distraction to "divert their attention from problems that exist inside the country";
 - N. whereas President Putin's Russia has engaged in a permanent hybrid warfare against neighbouring countries with disinformation as a key tool, backed by the ever-present threat of force across the region to keep Member States and neighbouring countries politically off-balance and influenced by Moscow's self-declared sphere of influence, attempting to remove the right of some countries to choose their own alliances;
1. Strongly condemns Russia's unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression on Ukraine and escalating repression against Russian citizens opposing the war;
 2. Calls on the Russian government to immediately cease its repression against its citizens, release political dissidents, end its crackdown on civil society, overturn its laws against fundamental human rights and ensure open media freedom and pluralism;

3. Calls on the Russian government to immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Navalny, as well as the thousands of other Russian citizens groundlessly detained only for having the braveness to demonstrate in favour of peace, including the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
4. Deplores the Russian authorities' efforts to keep full secrecy to their own population about the war crimes committed during the invasion of Ukraine;
5. Notes that according to most trusted independent Russian public opinion poll agency Levada Center 83% of Russians support Putin's actions and only 15% don't support and since the war began, the percentage of Russians who say the country is moving in the right directions soared from 52% to 69%, the highest level ever recorded since 1996; thus, even more appreciates those brave individuals who openly protests and opposes Russian imperialism in its newest form of the invasion of Ukraine, despite brutality of riot policy, criminal sanctions as well as media and social pressure; Therefore urged the EU Member States not to issue Schengen visas to Russian citizens, with the exception of humanitarian ones;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to the President, Government and Parliament of Ukraine, to the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation and to the Secretary General of NATO;