



Plenary sitting

B9-0252/2023

9.5.2023

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 Belarus: the inhumane treatment and hospitalisation of prominent opposition leader Viktor Babaryka
(2023/2693(RSP))

Pedro Marques, Juozas Olekas, Matthias Ecke, Thijs Reuten
on behalf of the S&D Group

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on Belarus: the inhumane treatment and hospitalisation of prominent opposition leader Viktor Babaryka (2023/2693(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Belarus,
 - having regard to the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell of 27 April 2023 on the health of political prisoner Viktor Babaryka,
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure.
- A. whereas the Lukashenka regime has been exerting systematic repression against the people of Belarus ever since the massively falsified presidential election of 9 August 2020;
- B. whereas Viktor Babaryka, candidate in the 2020 presidential election, was arrested on 18 June 2020 and sentenced in July 2021 to 14 years in prison for alleged corruption charges;
- C. whereas Viktor Babaryka, was hospitalised reportedly with traces of beatings and moved from a prison colony to a hospital to undergo surgery while his lawyers and family are denied information or contact with him;
- D. whereas several thousands of persons have been arbitrarily detained since 2020, more than 3,000 persons were convicted in politically motivated trials with trumped-up charges and there are almost 1,500 political prisoners in Belarus and reported deaths of detained persons due to harsh prison conditions and lack of proper medical assistance;
1. Urges the Belarusian authorities to immediately cease the serious mistreatment of Viktor Babaryka and of any other person currently detained in Belarus and to ensure proper medical assistance, and access to lawyers and family;
 2. Calls to immediately and unconditionally release all persons arbitrarily detained in Belarus or sentenced to sometimes decade-long prison terms for merely having claimed their legitimate rights to express their opinion, stand or participate in elections, or protest against the regime's violence and repression and calls to stop the increasing repression against lawyers representing political detainees;
 3. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to allow diplomats and international organizations access to political prisoners in order to assess their conditions and provide emergency aid where needed;

4. Encourages the Commission and Member States to dedicate greater resources to judicial support to political prisoners and their families;
5. Condemns the violation of Belarus' obligations as a state party to the ICCPR through the introduction of the death penalty for "attempted acts of terrorism" used by the Lukashenka regime to silence its opponents;
6. Reiterates its demand to establish accountability for all perpetrators of the serious and systematic human rights violations under the Lukashenka regime;
7. Reiterates its call on the Council to significantly broaden the list of persons targeted by sanctions and to include all prosecutors, judges and law enforcement personnel involved in staging the regime's show trials;
8. 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 governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces and the de facto authorities of the Republic of Belarus.