



Plenary sitting

B9-0253/2023

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 hospitalization of prominent opposition leader Viktor Babaryka
(2023/2693(RSP))

Petras Auštrevičius, Malik Azmani, Nicola Beer, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Dita Charanzová, Olivier Chastel, Bernard Guetta, Svenja Hahn, Karin Karlsbro, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Nathalie Loiseau, Karen Melchior, Javier Nart, Urmas Paet, Dragoș Pîslaru, Frédérique Ries, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Michal Šimečka, Ramona Strugariu, Dragoș Tudorache, Hilde Vautmans
on behalf of the Renew Group

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Belarus,
 - having regards to Rule 144 of its rules of Procedure
- A. Whereas Viktor Babaryka, former presidential candidate, was unlawfully imprisoned together with his son Eduard Babaryka and sentenced to 14 years in prison; whereas Babaryka has been subjected to inhumane treatment while in detention and has consequently required hospitalization; whereas he was denied visitors and his family has no information regarding his hospitalization, whereabouts, or health status;
- B. Whereas other prominent Belarusian political prisoners, such as opposition leaders Maryia Kalesnikava, Maksim Znak, Siarhei Tsikhanouski, Pavel Seviarynets and Mikalai Statkevich have also been subjected to complete isolation, with a lack of any information from them; whereas Kalesnikava was recently hospitalized, further raising concerns for their safety and well-being;
- C. Whereas six lawyers representing political leaders were searched, interrogated, and detained last month, with two of them spending 15 days of administrative arrest in Akrestina jail, indicating increased pressure on legal professionals;
- D. Whereas former editor of NEXTA Telegram channel Raman Pratasevich, a victim of the Lukashenka regime's terror attack on Ryanair flight FR4978, has been sentenced to eight years in prison; whereas Pratasevich's co-defendants, Stsiapan Putsila and Yan Rudzik, were tried in absentia and sentenced to 20 and 19 years in prison, respectively;
1. Strongly condemns the inhumane treatment, hospitalization, and lack of transparency surrounding the conditions of Viktor Babaryka and other political prisoners, as well as the continued repression of political opposition, civil society, trade unions, legal defenders and independent media in Belarus;
 2. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Viktor Babaryka, his son Eduard, Mariya Kalesnikava, Maksim Znak, Siarhei Tsikhanouski, Pavel Seviarynets, Mikalai Statkevich, Raman Pratasevich, Stsiapan Putsila, Yan Rudzik and all other 1500 political prisoners in Belarus, and for the provision of necessary medical care to ensure their well-being;
 3. Demands that the Belarusian authorities provide full disclosure on the current whereabouts, state of health, and incident leading to the hospitalization of Babaryka and to grant his family and legal representatives immediate access to him;

4. Reiterates its solidarity with the people of Belarus in their struggle for free, sovereign and democratic Belarus and against Belarus' involvement in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; reaffirms its commitment to support Belarusian civil society and independent media;
5. Reiterates its call for the EU and its Member States to broaden the EU sanctions against individuals and entities responsible for the repression in Belarus and to include all individuals complicit in the regime's repression against the democratic opposition and political protesters, including judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement, prison and penal colony officials, and ensure the sanctions' proper enforcement; similar sanctions to be applied for war crimes in Ukraine, including illegal deportation of Ukrainian children to Belarus;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the HR/VP, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces and the de facto authorities of the Republic of Belarus.