



Plenary sitting

B9-0288/2023

13.6.2023

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 the torture and criminal prosecution of Ukrainian minors Tihiran Ohannisian and Mykyta Khanhanov by the Russian Federation (2023/2735(RSP))

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on behalf of the ECR Group

B9-0288/2023

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the torture and criminal prosecution of Ukrainian minors Tihran Ohannisian and Mykyta Khanhanov by the Russian Federation
(2023/2735(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the UN Convention on the CRC of 20 November 1989,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia;
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 24 May young residents of Russia-occupied Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia region, Tihran Ohannisian and Mykyta Khanhanov, were charged by the Russian Investigative Committee with allegedly "preparing sabotage on the railway", which carries a penalty of 10 to 20 years' imprisonment;
- B. whereas the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation claims that the youths allegedly conspired to support the armed forces of Ukraine and "damaged the railway track in order to prevent the Russian armed forces from receiving material support";
- C. whereas, according to the Centre for National Resistance, an organisation coordinating Ukrainian partisans in the occupied territories, it never involves minors in its work;
- D. whereas the indictment was preceded by several months of harassment, detention and torture of the children and their families; whereas, according to the Media Initiative for Human Rights, the teenagers have been followed and interrogated by the Russian authorities since September 2002;
- E. whereas Tihran Ohannisian was abducted from his home, where he lives with his grandmother, and for five days the family knew nothing of the child's whereabouts; whereas at the same time Tihran was brutally interrogated by the 'investigative authorities' and subjected to beatings and electric shocks; whereas Mykyta Khanhanov managed to avoid arrest but was also forced to report daily to the investigators;
- F. whereas the lawyers chosen by the Russian investigators did not provide legal support to the boys;
- G. whereas numerous reports indicate that the Russian authorities are continuing their repression against Ukrainian children, and are still deliberately separating children from their parents and kidnapping others from orphanages before putting them up for adoption in Russia;

1. Strongly condemns the persecution of the two Ukrainian teenagers aged 16 and 17 Tihiran Ohannisian and Mykyta Khanhanov, and their families;
2. Demands their unconditional release from the persecution of the Russian authorities as soon as possible and urges the international community to take all necessary measures to allow them and their families to leave unhindered to a place controlled by the Ukrainian Government or to any other civilised country;
3. Stresses that those responsible for the persecution of Ohannisian and Khanhanov, including those in the highest military and political echelons of Russia and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, must be held criminally accountable and brought to justice;
4. Calls for the two young people to be given independent legal representation, protection and access to international lawyers;
5. Underlines that all harassment of children by Russia, including by deportations and forced adoption, is a grave violation of international law and crime against humanity;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the UNHRC, CRC, the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the CoE, the OSCE, the President, Government and Parliament of Ukraine and the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation.