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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0290/2023**

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))

**Željana Zovko, Michaela Šojdrová, David Lega, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Sandra Kalniete, Isabel Wiseler-Lima, Miriam Lexmann, Vladimír Bilčík, Vangelis Meimarakis, Radosław Sikorski, Ewa Kopacz, Tomáš Zdechovský, Eugen Tomac, Liudas Mažylis, Jiří Pospíšil, José Manuel Fernandes**

on behalf of the PPE Group

**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 Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and to the Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict,
  - having regard to Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,
  - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on May 24, 2023, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged, Tihran Ohannisian and Mykyta Khanhanov, born in 2006, with allegedly planning sabotage on the railway in the temporarily occupied Berdyansk; whereas they are facing arrest and 10 to 20 years imprisonment;
- B. whereas the two teenagers have been persecuted and interrogated by Russian authorities since September 2022; whereas Ohannisian was abducted from his home, brutally interrogated by the ‘investigative authorities’ and subjected to beatings and electric shocks, while Khanhanov managed to avoid arrest, but was obliged to report to investigators daily;
- C. whereas according to the “Children of War platform” of Ukraine, Russia’s full scale invasion of Ukraine has resulted in the death of at least 483 Ukrainian children, with at least 1015 injured and 3924 reported missing; whereas there are 19,501 confirmed cases of deported children, of which 12,936 have been located and only 373 have been returned home; whereas UNICEF reports that over 500 children were killed;
- D. whereas the alleged role of Belarus in the forced transfer of children from Russian-occupied territories is under investigation;
- E. whereas Russia has unleashed a ruthless bombardment of missile attacks which have damaged and destroyed schools, hospitals and residential buildings, targeting civilians, including children;
1. Urges the immediate and unconditional release and dismissal of charges of Tihran Ohannisian and Mykyta Khanhanov;
  2. Condemns the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict, their persecution and torture, and direct attacks on objects protected under international law, including places generally having a significant presence of children, such as schools and hospitals;

3. Condemns Russia's actions deliberately targeting Ukrainian children, including their forcible transfer within Ukraine's territory temporarily occupied by Russia and/or their unlawful deportation to Russia, as well as attempts to impose a so-called "re-education" and illegal adoptions, as evidenced in the recent Moscow Mechanism report;
4. Calls on the ICRC to use its mandate given by the Geneva Conventions to act in favour of returning Ukrainian children to Ukraine;
5. Calls on the Commission and the VP/HR to intensify efforts to prevent and end grave violations against children affected by armed conflict; stresses the importance of advancing the Child Rights and Armed Conflicts agenda in the EU external action, and counter-terrorism and security policies, in line with the EU action plan on human rights and democracy, integrating it in CSDP operations, security sector reforms and mediation; calls on the Commission and the VP/HR to setup special child protection officers and units in EU Delegations;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the VP/HR, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the ICRC and the Government of the Russian Federation.