



Plenary sitting

B9-0466/2023

21.11.2023

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 unlawful detention of President Mohamed Bazoum in Niger
(2023/2980(RSP))

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the unlawful detention of President Mohamed Bazoum in Niger
(2023/2980(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rules 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 26 July Niger's democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum was overthrown by the members of Niger's Presidential Guard; whereas the coup was strongly condemned by ECOWAS and beyond;
- B. whereas President Bazoum, who has refused to resign, is still being detained, along with his wife and son, under increasingly deteriorating conditions; whereas authorities vowed to prosecute him "for high treason" and undermining national security, which may lead to the death penalty;
- C. whereas the authorities have arbitrarily arrested several officials of the ousted government, including Sani Mahamadou Issoufou, former petroleum minister; Hamadou Adamou Souley, former home affairs minister; Kalla Moutari, former defense minister; Ahmad Jidoud, former finance minister; and Daouda Mamadou Marthé, former Education Minister;
- D. whereas since the coup critical media and peaceful dissenters have experienced increased pressures, including arbitrary detention, threats, harassment and intimidation;
- E. whereas 4,3 million people, including a majority of women and children and representing about 17 per cent of the population in Niger, remain in need of humanitarian aid¹; whereas Nigeriens are among the populations most affected by violent conflicts and by climate change;
- 1. Condemns the unlawful detention of President Mohamed Bazoum and urges the military authorities to immediately release President Bazoum and his family, as well all others arbitrarily detained; calls on the military authorities to respect the right to a fair trial and promptly bring all those detained before a judge and be appropriately charged or released;
- 2. Urges the military authorities to ensure that the deposed President Mohamed Bazoum and all others in custody are treated lawfully with adequate food, basic services, and access to doctors, lawyers, and family members;
- 3. Strongly recommends the military authorities to allow visits to President Bazoum and other detainees by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the national human rights commission, and independent human rights monitors;
- 4. Underlines that the freedom of expression, dissent, and media freedom are vital for the enjoyment of other rights and holding the government accountable;

¹ <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/niger>

5. Condemns the military coup in Niger and recalls on the military authorities to ensure an immediate return to the constitutional order and the rule of law and to facilitate the organisation of transparent and inclusive elections;
6. Emphasises the importance of continuing free access to humanitarian aid and basic services in conflict areas, including for those living in territories outside government control; recalls the EU commitment to provide assistance to the population of Niger and to guarantee the humanitarian exemption in the case of sanctions;
7. Calls on the EU Member States and the EEAS to actively monitor and report on the developments on the ground and to support independent media and civil society and human rights defenders, including through facilitating visas;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the HR/VP, the Council, the Commission and the military authorities in Niger.