



Plenary sitting

B9-0471/2023

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))

Javier Nart, Petras Auštrevičius, Malik Azmani, José Ramón Bauzá Díaz, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Dita Charanzová, Olivier Chastel, Bernard Guetta, Svenja Hahn, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Karen Melchior, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Urmas Paet, Dragoș Pîslaru, Frédérique Ries, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Ramona Strugariu, Dragoș Tudorache, Hilde Vautmans

on behalf of the Renew 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 Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas the democratically elected President of the Republic of Niger, Mohammed Bazoum, was illegally arrested, together with his wife and son, on 26th July 2023, following a military coup led by General Abdourahamane Tiani; whereas the military Junta dissolved the elected government;
 - B. whereas President Bazoum has since then been imprisoned in his residence; whereas President Bazoum and his family were deprived of food at the start of their detention, and electricity has since been cut off, causing high temperatures;
 - C. whereas the unlawful imprisonment of President Bazoum and his family is aimed at pressuring him to resign; whereas the Junta has announced that it will prosecute President Bazoum for "high treason" and undermining state security;
 - D. whereas Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso, have entered into a mutual defense pact that binds the signatories to assist each other, including militarily, in the event of an attack on any one of them;
 - E. whereas the Junta arbitrarily arrested dozens of former government officials and cracked down on critical media and peaceful dissent;
 - F. whereas there is no credible political transition process in sight;
 - G. whereas the security situation has deteriorated while jihadist attacks have increased further since the coup and the decision of the Junta to demand the departure of French troops cooperating in the fight against armed groups; whereas the European Union has suspended its development and military cooperation with the country;
 - H. whereas the humanitarian situation is dire; whereas Niger is one of the most seriously affected countries by climate change.
- 1. Strongly condemns the military coup of 26th July 2023; calls for the immediate and unconditional release of President Bazoum and his family, as well as Ministers, officials and civilians;
- 2. Demands the immediate reinstatement of the democratically elected Mohamed Bazoum in his functions as President of the Republic, as well as the immediate restoration of constitutional order;

3. Urges the Junta to put an end to arbitrary detentions, uphold human rights and guarantee freedom of expression;
4. Welcomes the EUs sanctions against the leaders of the Nigerien Junta and the suspension of budget support and security cooperation, while continuing its humanitarian assistance; welcomes ECOWAS decision to impose economic and financial sanctions while pursuing mediation efforts to find a political solution;
5. Is deeply concerned by the security situation in Niger and the region, particularly following the strategic and operational alliance between two major terrorist groups on 11th November 2023¹;
6. Raises apprehensions for the potential utilisation of the mutual defence pact for the suppression of peaceful pro-democratic demonstrators;
7. Emphasises that terrorism throughout the Sahel region undermines democratic consolidation and the rule of law; strongly advises the authorities in West Africa against using foreign private military companies,
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Nigerien authorities, the Council, the Commission, and the African Union.

¹ JNIM (Islamic and Muslim Support Group) and EIGS (Islamic State in the Sahara)