



Plenary sitting

B9-0472/2023

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 PPE 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(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 26 July 2023 a coup took place in Niger, after which the presidential guards commander Abdourahamane Tchiani assumed power and put the elected president Mohamed Bazoum under house arrest;
- B. whereas President Bazoum since then has been held prisoner under questionable conditions together with his wife and son, raising concerns about access to medical treatment and proper nutrition;
- C. whereas following the coup, ECOWAS and the international community have been calling for a return to the constitutional order as well as the reinstatement of the democratically-elected president;
- D. whereas the junta refused ECOWAS efforts of mediation and has recently asked the Togolese president to act as a facilitator;
- E. whereas ECOWAS has put in place economic and financial sanctions in response to the coup, and has not excluded a military intervention to restore the constitutional order;
- F. whereas the EU, in response to the coup, stopped its budgetary and military support as well as roughly 80% of the development support by DG INTPA;
- G. whereas the election of President Bazoum in 2021 marked the first ever democratic transfer of power between two democratically-elected presidents in Niger;
- H. whereas the July coup was the sixth coup in Western Africa since 2020;
- I. whereas the EU has been supporting Niger in its combat against terrorism as well as efforts to foster economic development to advance the living conditions for the local populations;
- J. whereas the Nigerien junta has terminated the military cooperation with France; whereas after the coup the EU has halted all activities of the EU CAP Sahel Niger and EUMPM Niger and whereas some EU Member States announced a halt of bilateral cooperation;
- K. whereas since the coup jihadist terrorists have increased their attacks, leading to a deterioration of the security situation;

1. Demands the immediate and unconditional release of President Bazoum and his family;

2. Expresses its full support to mediation efforts by ECOWAS, the African Union, and the United Nations, and fully reiterates its condemnation of the coup and its demand for an immediate return to the constitutional order;
3. Expresses concern about the deteriorating security situation in Niger and underlines that a close security cooperation with the EU and its Member States is the best way for Niger to pursue a path of stability, peace and economic development;
4. Deplores that the coup has put democratic, security and economic progress in Niger at massive risk and hence goes against the long-term interests of the Nigerien people;
5. Welcomes the legal framework of the autonomous sanctions regime set up by EU Foreign Ministers on 23 October and calls for it to be applied against those in charge of the coup and the detention of President Bazoum;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the ECOWAS leadership, as well as the military junta of Niger.