



Plenary sitting

B9-0507/2023

12.12.2023

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 unknown status of Mikalai Statkevich and the recent attacks on Belarusian politicians' and activists' family members
(2023/3023(RSP))

Helmut Scholz

on behalf of The Left Group

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on The unknown status of Mikalai Statkevich and the recent attacks on Belarusian politicians' and activists' family members
(2023/3023(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. Whereas Mikalai Statkevich, a Belarusian opposition politician sentenced to 14-year imprisonment on politically motivated charges of “organizing riots” is in detention since 2020;
 - B. Whereas Statkevich’s family and lawyers last received news from him in February 2023 and recently, rumours of his possible death circulated online which Belarusian authorities neither denied nor confirmed; whereas it was earlier reported that his health severely deteriorated in confinement;
 - C. Whereas according to human rights center Viasna, there are currently 1,451 political prisoners in Belarus suffering severe restriction of their rights in detention, as well as ill-treatment and torture;
 - D. Whereas in late November 2023, Belarusian authorities carried out a wave of raids in connection with the ongoing criminal case against the Coordination council;
 - E. Whereas over the past years, authorities increasingly targeted exiled Belarusians, including political opposition, human rights defenders, independent journalists, and activists, holding trials in absentia with no fair trial guarantees;
 - F. Whereas this targeted repression on individuals and opposition leaders are embedded in increased efforts to exclude and silence political parties, civil society organizations, and trade unions that are critical with the Lukashenka administration, particularly those that remain in the country;
-
- 1. Expresses its deep concern for the conditions of Mikalai Statkevich and other political prisoners and calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and all persons arbitrarily detained, arrested or sentenced on politically motivated grounds, and for all charges against them to be dropped, as well as for their full rehabilitation and financial compensation for damages incurred due to their illegitimate detention;
 - 2. Condemn the new wave of repression in Belarus and denounces the fact that politically motivated trials are held behind closed doors and without due process of law, thereby breaching the country’s international obligations and commitments;

3. Reminds the Belarusian authorities of their obligations to respect the human rights of all Belarusian citizens, including the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association;
4. Calls for the EU and its Member States to continue raising the situation in Belarus in all relevant European and international organisations, with the aim of enhancing international scrutiny of human rights violations and to ensure that enough resources are dedicated to the investigation of universal jurisdiction cases against the perpetrators of grave rights abuses in Belarus;
5. Stresses that the documentation of grave abuses and accountability efforts for international crimes must be continued at the UN level with a reformed and strengthened OHCHR examination of the human rights situation in Belarus;
6. Calls to renew and preserve the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Belarus to ensure continued scrutiny over ongoing human rights violations;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the authorities of Belarus, the EU Member States, the Council, the Commission, the VP/HR, the EEAS and the UN.