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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0509/2023**

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))

**Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Markéta Gregorová, Bronis Ropé, Hannah Neumann, Francisco Guerreiro, Malte Gallée, Alviina Alametsä, Heidi Hautala**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE 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 its previous resolutions on Belarus,
  - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
    - A. whereas former pro-democracy opposition politician Mikalai Statkevich was arrested on 31 May 2020, after which he was sentenced to 14 years in prison for “organising riots” in a politically motivated trial;
    - B. whereas Statkevich has been held incommunicado since spring this year with no information on his health or whereabouts; whereas prolonged incommunicado detention amounts to torture and ill-treatment and may amount to enforced disappearance;
    - C. whereas Statkevich was named among the representatives of the Democratic Belarusian opposition, honoured with the Sakharov Prize in December 2020;
    - D. whereas the Belarusian authorities are conducting a new wave of persecution against the members of the democratic forces as well as their family members;
1. Expresses serious concern about the lack of information on the situation of Mikalai Statkevich and condemns the Belarusian authorities' use of incommunicado detention and repressive prolonged solitary confinement;
  2. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to allow Statkevich contact with his legal representatives and family as per Belarus' international human rights commitments, in particular the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;
  3. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Statkevich and all persons arbitrarily detained, arrested or sentenced on politically-motivated grounds; condemns the recent attacks on representatives of Belarusian democratic forces and their families;
  4. Continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Belarus; reiterates its non-recognition of the election of Aleksandr Lukashenko as president of Belarus, and denounces the continuing repression of democratic forces, free media and civil society through politically motivated show trials;
  5. Urges Belarusian authorities to cease the use of torture, ill-treatment and inhumane practices as a systematic practice on prisoners in line with its commitments under international law, effectively investigate all cases of torture and extra-judicial executions, and provide compensation and rehabilitation to the victims of torture;

6. Reiterates its call on the Commission and Member States to simplify the procedures for obtaining visas and residence permits for those fleeing Belarus for political reasons, as well as to prepare rules and procedures to deal with cases of statelessness, as well as to provide support for those Belarusians residing in the EU whose identity documents are about to expire and who have no means of renewing them, since they cannot return to Belarus;
7. Calls on Member States to ensure that the documentation and accountability efforts for international crimes are continued at UN level with a reformed and strengthened OHCHR examination of the human rights situation in Belarus and by preserving the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Belarus for continued scrutiny over ongoing human rights violations;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the VP/HR, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, OHCHR, the representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces and the authorities of Belarus.