



Plenary sitting

B9-0516/2023

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))

Pedro Marques, Juozas Olekas

on behalf of the S&D 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 numerous previous resolutions on Belarus since August 2020,
 - having regard to the statement by the High Representative/Vice-President of 29 November 2023 on the regime's latest attacks on democratic forces,
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure.
- A. whereas on 29 November 2023 the Lukashenka regime launched attacks on Belarusian democratic forces and their family members, raiding apartments and announcing the seizure of properties and other assets;
- B. whereas these attacks are the latest escalation in the ever more severe repression by the regime against pro-democratic forces, political activists, civil society, independent media, trade unions and any voice of dissent since the stolen presidential election of 9 August 2020;
- C. whereas Mikalai Statkevich, democratic candidate in the 2010 presidential election, was arrested on 31 May 2020 and sentenced in June 2020 to 14 years imprisonment; whereas he was hospitalized in November 2022 and neither his family nor his lawyer have received any information about his wellbeing since March 2023;
1. Expresses outmost concern about the unknown status of Mikalai Statkevich as of so many other political prisoners who are held incommunicado and reportedly are subjected to ill-treatment and torture; calls for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to be given access to Mikalai Statkevich to assess his health; demands to respect the human rights and personal dignity of all detained persons, to inform about their whereabouts and wellbeing and to allow access for lawyers and family members;
 2. Urges the Belarusian authorities to immediately end the repression against the people of Belarus and to immediately and unconditionally release the more than 1.500 political prisoners and all persons arbitrarily detained;
 3. Calls on the EU and its Member States to support the political prisoners of Belarus and their families by seizing every opportunity, to request their immediate release, by summoning the regime's ambassadors to ask for proof of their condition and location and by granting humanitarian visas, rehabilitation and practical support through a dedicated fund, and to increase pressure on the regime through new sanctions, e.g. on re-exports to

and from China, freight transit, sectors directly supporting the regime and on goods involving forced labour;

4. Condemns the attacks on the democratic forces of Belarus, political activists, their families and friends and calls on the authorities to refrain from renewing repression ahead of the parliamentary elections in February 2024, to ensure full respect of freedom of association and expression, and to allow all candidates including from political parties and representatives of the democratic forces of Belarus to compete freely in free and fair democratic elections under international observation.
5. 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 Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and to the representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces and the de facto authorities of the Republic of Belarus.