



Plenary sitting

B9-0147/2024

26.2.2024

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the murder of Alexei Navalny and the need for EU action in support of political prisoners and oppressed civil society in Russia
(2024/2579(RSP))

Sergey Lagodinsky, Francisco Guerreiro, Markéta Gregorová, Ignazio Corrao, Katrin Langensiepen, Mounir Satouri, Anna Cavazzini, Bronis Ropé, Alviina Alametsä, Erik Marquardt, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Heidi Hautala, Henrike Hahn, Jordi Solé, Malte Gallée, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

B9-0147/2024

European Parliament resolution on the murder of Alexei Navalny and the need for EU action in support of political prisoners and oppressed civil society in Russia (2024/2579(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia,
 - having regard to the statement of its Conference of Presidents of 21 February 2024,
 - having regard to the Constitution of the Russian Federation and to the international human rights obligations to which Russia has committed itself,
 - having regard to the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, Mariana Katzarova, of 21 September 2023 entitled ‘Situation of human rights in the Russian Federation’,
 - having regard to the report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights of 11 July 2023 entitled ‘Protecting Human Rights Defenders at Risk: EU entry, stay and support’,
 - having regard to the statement by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on behalf of the European Union of 19 February 2024 on the death of Alexei Navalny,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Alexei Navalny, a prominent Russian political figure and the 2021 laureate of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, perished in a Siberian penal colony north of the Arctic Circle while serving an unfounded, politically motivated prison sentence; whereas the full responsibility for his murder lies with the Russian state and its President Vladimir Putin in particular;
- B. whereas Navalny had been in detention since 17 January 2021; whereas since his arrest, he had been subjected to ill treatment, torture, arbitrary punishment and psychological pressure;
- C. whereas Alexei Navalny became the embodiment of the struggle for freedom and democracy in Russia; whereas Navalny tirelessly and courageously continued his fight from prison, denouncing the corruption of the Russian regime; whereas there are reports of Russian citizens paying tribute to Alexei Navalny in cities and towns across Russia, many of whom are being detained for these peaceful actions and some subjected to arbitrary military draft notices;
- D. whereas Russia’s political system is controlled by a consolidated authoritarian regime that engages in rampant corruption; whereas it uses rigged elections to provide a semblance of democracy and concentrates all the power in the hands of Vladimir Putin; whereas the government suppresses any dissent with the support of loyalist security

forces, a subservient judiciary, a controlled media environment, and a legislature consisting of a ruling party and pliable opposition factions;

- E. whereas Putin's regime has decimated a generation of Russian human rights organisations, including Memorial and the Moscow Helsinki Group; whereas the EU hosts a variety of Russian dissidents, media and civil society representatives who were forced to leave Russia as their criticism of the government put them at great risk of retaliation from the authorities;
- F. whereas many opposition actors remain in Russia and continue to fight for democracy, the rule of law and human rights from within Russia at great personal risk; whereas representatives of the opposition are systematically subjected to verbal attacks, ad hominem campaigns and dehumanisation by the government or pro-government media; whereas over 500 people are currently jailed in Russia as political prisoners; whereas since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russian authorities have curtailed rights and individual liberties even further to stifle domestic dissent;
- G. whereas there is no longer any safe space for civic action or political opposition within Russia, according to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, Mariana Katzarova;
 - 1. Strongly condemns the murder of Alexei Navalny; expresses its wholehearted condolences to his family, associates and colleagues, as well as his countless supporters in Russia; expresses its full support to Yulia Navalnaya in her determination to continue the work started by Alexei Navalny with her support, as well as to the Anti-Corruption Foundation founded by Navalny, which is continuing its work under the new circumstances;
 - 2. Calls on the Russian authorities to allow Alexei Navalny's body to be buried according to his family's wishes; demands an independent and transparent international investigation into the exact circumstances of the death of Alexei Navalny in order to ensure accountability and justice;
 - 3. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Member States to hold the Russian political leadership and authorities to account, in close coordination with EU partners; calls on the Council to make effective use of the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime and implement targeted measures against those involved in Navalny's arrest, court case, imprisonment and death;
 - 4. Underlines that the Russian Government and Vladimir Putin personally bear criminal and political responsibility for the murder of their most prominent opponent, Alexei Navalny, and that under such circumstances it is justifiable to raise the question of Vladimir Putin's legitimacy in public and international discourse;
 - 5. Expresses its solidarity with all those in Russia and beyond who fight for a democratic and peaceful future for Russia; condemns the intensification of the crackdown on critics of the government, human rights defenders and independent journalists since the invasion of Ukraine;

6. Calls on the Russian authorities to drop all arbitrary charges and to immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and those arbitrarily detained, including Vladimir Kara-Murza, Yuri Dmitriev, Ilya Yashin, Alexei Gorinov, Lilia Chanysheva, Ksenia Fadeeva, Vadim Ostanin, Daniel Kholodny, Viktoria Petrova, Maria Ponomarenko, Alexandra Skochilenko, Svetlana Petriychuk, Evgenia Berkovich, Dmitry Ivanov, Ioann Kurmoyarov, Igor Baryshnikov, Dmitry Talantov, Alexei Moskalev, and Ivan Safronov;
7. Demands that, pending their release, prisoners be detained under conditions compliant with Russia's international obligations, in particular regarding their access to doctors of their choice, appropriate medical treatment, lawyers, and communication with their families;
8. Calls on the Member States to intensify their efforts to find feasible ways of freeing the most affected, especially sick political prisoners or those who have suffered torture, including the option of possible exchanges of imprisoned individuals; calls on the Council to create a special role of envoy for political prisoners and hostages in order to coordinate such efforts, in cooperation with international partners, and to serve as a point of contact for affected families and associates;
9. Calls on the Russian authorities to immediately release the hundreds of people who have been detained over the past weeks for peacefully paying tribute to the memory of Alexei Navalny; condemns the sadistic practice of the Russian authorities of targeting political protesters by drafting them to serve in the war;
10. Calls on the Member States to introduce extensive EU restrictive measures against individuals involved in the political persecution and fabrication of cases against Russian civil society and activists; insists on increased transparency in the process of applying and lifting EU restrictive measures;
11. Calls on the EU delegation and EU Member State missions in Russia to continue attending trials of individuals facing politically motivated prosecution;
12. Urges Member States to increase and further facilitate the programme for humanitarian visas and offer other support to Russian human rights defenders, pro-democracy activists and independent journalists at risk of political persecution;
13. Reiterates its call for an EU-wide multi-entry visa scheme for human rights defenders and civil society activists as well as politically persecuted individuals, and to use existing legal flexibility and address gaps in legislation as proposed by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in its 2023 report entitled 'Protecting Human Rights Defenders at Risk: EU entry, stay and support'; invites the EU institutions to prepare measures in case Russia ceases issuing passports at its consulates, including the recognition of de facto statelessness, and to issue travel documents, in order to allow the democratic opposition, civil society activists and otherwise politically persecuted persons to relocate to EU Member States, and, where relevant, continue their work while in exile;
14. Calls on Member States to avoid unjustified and disproportionate application of restrictive measures on individuals seeking refuge from and fighting against the current

Russian Government;

15. Calls for the simplification of processes for Russian dissidents in the EU to register organisations and entities, open bank accounts and carry out other administrative tasks in order to allow them to continue their work in exile;
16. Deplores the Russian regime's imperialist and neocolonial policies and condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine; reiterates that the EU, its Member States and like-minded partners around the world must continue their political, economic and military support for Ukraine, as the best answer to the current oppressive practices is to increase our support for Ukraine's defence;
17. Calls on the Commission to use the multilateral platforms of which Russia is a member to continue condemning human rights violations in Russia as well as Russia's crime of aggression against Ukraine;
18. Expresses support for the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, Mariana Katzarova, and calls on the Member States to ensure that the UN Human Rights Council extends her mandate again in 2024;
19. Calls on the Commission and in particular European External Action Service, to develop a proactive, long-term strategic policy towards Russia that effectively responds to the reality of EU-Russia relations today, the human rights situation in Russia and the need to support Russian civil society and opposition representatives in exile;
20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the Russian authorities.