



Plenary sitting

B9-0251/2023

9.5.2023

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 Belarus: the inhumane treatment and hospitalisation of prominent opposition leader Viktor Babaryka
(2023/2693(RSP))

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

B9-0251/2023

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on Belarus: the inhumane treatment and hospitalisation of prominent opposition leader Viktor Babaryka (2023/2693(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 potential presidential candidate Viktor Babaryka was detained on 18 June 2020 in the lead-up to the 2020 Belarus Presidential election;
 - B. whereas on 6 July 2021, the Belarus Supreme Court sentenced Babaryka to 14 years in a penal colony in a politically-motivated trial following charges of money laundering and fraud;
 - C. whereas on 26 April 2023, independent Belarusian media reported Babaryka was hospitalised with “marks of battery”; whereas his team later confirmed his hospitalisation;
 - D. whereas there are currently some 1500 political prisoners in Belarus; whereas several political prisoners were recently hospitalised after suffering physical violence;
- 1. Expresses serious concern about Viktor Babaryka’s deteriorating medical condition; urges the Belarusian authorities to ensure his safety and provide him with immediate and appropriate medical care in line with Belarus’ international commitments to ensuring the health of all detainees and respecting their human rights; strongly condemns all instances of torture;
- 2. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and all persons arbitrarily detained, arrested or sentenced on politically-motivated grounds;
- 3. Expresses similar concern about the medical situation and detention conditions of Babaryka’s campaign manager and later replacement, Maria Kalesnikava following her hospitalisation in November 2022;
- 4. Continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Belarus; reiterates its non-recognition of the election of Aleksandr Lukashenka as president of Belarus, and denounces the continuing repression of democratic forces, free media and civil society, including through politically motivated show trials;
- 5. Urges Belarusian authorities to stop using 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. Calls for unequivocal support for the Belarusian democratic forces and the ousting of the current illegitimate regime under Lukashenka, as well as subsequent free and fair new elections, underpinned by independent and free media and a strong civil society;

7. Calls on the EU and the Member States for a targeted EU assistance programme to help victims of political repression, by monitoring the situation, detention conditions and trials of political prisoners, as well as supporting independent media and CSOs; further calls for the easing of visa requirements, improving asylum processes, issuing emergency visas, providing temporary shelter in the EU for those seeking refuge from Belarus;
8. Welcomes the extension of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and echoes the call from OHCHR for UN Member States to consider working towards accountability through national proceedings based on accepted principles of extraterritorial and universal jurisdiction;
9. 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.