



Plenary sitting

B9-0470/2023

21.11.2023

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 unlawful detention of President Mohamed Bazoum in Niger
(2023/2980(RSP))

Pedro Marques, Nikos Papandreou
on behalf of the S&D Group

B9-0470/2023

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the unlawful detention of President Mohamed Bazoum in Niger (2023/2980(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its rules of procedure,
- A. whereas in July 2023 Nigerien President Mohamed Bazoum was overthrown in a military coup; whereas General Abdourahamane Tchiani, the head of the presidential guard, dissolved the government and declared himself the new leader;
- B. whereas this represents the seventh coup d'état in West Africa since 2020;
- C. whereas the new regime presented a 3 year plan for the transition of power; whereas this was rejected by ECOWAS which insists on the return to civilian rule within a year;
- D. whereas President Bazoum is under house arrest and being held in adverse conditions including limited access to medical care;
- E. whereas the junta accused him of 'high treason', an offence which can carry the death penalty;
- F. whereas other former government officials were also arrested; whereas press freedom has been curtailed and some European media banned; whereas NGOs, the UN and international agencies are banned from working in military operation zones;
- G. whereas ECOWAS responded to the coup with sanctions, including suspension of financial and commercial transactions and border closures; whereas the AU has suspended Niger from its activities;
- H. whereas the EU has suspended budget support and security and development cooperation; whereas the Union has also imposed asset freezes and travel bans for members of the junta;
- I. whereas the precarious humanitarian situation is further deteriorating; whereas 3 million people in Niger face severe food insecurity;
1. Strongly condemns the military coup; calls for a swift return to civilian rule and the restoration of constitutional order;

2. Insists on the unconditional release of President Bazoum and his family, and for the charges against him to be dropped;
3. Notes the ongoing assessments by ECOWAS on preparedness for potential military intervention; welcomes its leadership in efforts for dialogue; urges continued coordination in the international community for a political and diplomatic solution;
4. Urges the junta to engage with all relevant actors, including ECOWAS, the AU and civil society which are engaged in dialogue for a solution and swift return to civilian rule;
5. Welcomes EU sanctions and suspension of activities; underlines the importance of continued humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable; reminds all parties of the obligation to ensure unhindered humanitarian access;
6. Expresses its deep concern at the repercussions of the coup on regional instability; underlines the importance of an urgent return to civilian rule to tackle increased jihadism across the Sahel which is emboldened by the breakdown in democracy; stresses the importance of a new EU-Africa strategic approach to address the situation;
7. Underlines the risk of an increased presence of private military groups such as Wagner in Niger as a result of the coup; notes the importance of tackling disinformation in this regard;
8. Instruct its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the African Union, ECOWAS and the Nigerien authorities.