



Plenary sitting

B9-0514/2023

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 Belarussian politicians' and activists' family members
(2023/3023(RSP))

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on behalf of the Renew Group

B9-0514/2023

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the unknown status of Mikalai Statkevich and the recent attacks on Belarussian politicians' and activists' family members
(2023/3023(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Belarus,
- having regard to Rules 144(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas former presidential candidate and 2020 Sakharov Prize laureate Mikalai Statkevich imprisoned on politically motivated charges for 14 years is kept in solitary confinement under a maximum security regime; whereas his health is deteriorating and his lawyers and family members have been denied information or contact for 300 days;

B. whereas prominent Belarusian political prisoners, including Ales Bialiatski, Maryia Kalesnikava, Siarhei Tsikhanouski, Viktor Babaryka, Maksim Znak and Pavel Seviarynets, have been subjected to similar isolation;

C. whereas in its report of 3 February 2023, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that detention conditions in Belarus amounted to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and torture; whereas prisoners do not receive timely medical assistance or legal counsel;

D. whereas Human Rights Centre Viasna reports that since 28 November 2023 more than 100 searches by **the Belarussian security forces** were executed at the place of residence and registration of people associated with the Coordination Council;

E. whereas human rights defenders, democratic opposition politicians, civil society representatives, activists' family members are being systematically subjected to violent repression by the Lukashenko regime and forced to flee;

1. Urges the Belarussian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Mikalai Statkevich; calls on the immediate end to cruel punishments and solitary confinement, and calls for the unconditional release of all 1500 political prisoners and all persons arbitrarily detained, arrested or sentenced on politically motivated grounds, and for all charges against them to be dropped;

2. Insists that these political prisoners will receive proper medical assistance and access to lawyers, family, diplomats and international organisations so that they can assess their condition and provide aid;

3. Strongly condemns the unjustified and politically motivated sentences, and the continued repression of Belarussian democratic forces and their family members;

4. Calls on the Lukashenko regime to grant access to information on the charges against political prisoners and to monitor their trials; Continues to stand firmly in solidarity with the people of Belarus as well as with the members of the democratic opposition and civil society, in their struggle for a free, sovereign and democratic Belarus;

5. Calls for the EU and the Member States to advance a targeted EU assistance to help and protect victims of political repression, including activists' family members, by improving asylum procedures, providing shelter and access to public services in the EU for those seeking political refuge;

6. Reiterates its call to persecute and sanction all those who have committed human rights violations and war crimes under the Lukashenko regime;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Member States, the representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces and the de facto Belarusian authorities.