



Plenary sitting

B9-0515/2023

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))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

B9-0515/2023

**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 the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to all other human rights conventions to which Belarus is a party,
- having regard to Rules 144(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Belarusian opposition leader Mikalai Statkevich was arrested by the Belarusian regime on 31 May 2020 and sentenced to 14 years in prison on 14 December 2021;
- B. whereas the family and friends of Mikalai Statkevich have not received information about his condition for many months during his frequent stays in a punishment cell;
- C. whereas the Belarusian regime continues to repress the people of Belarus and persecutes civil society representatives, human rights defenders, journalists, opposition activists and many other people for political reasons; whereas widespread criminal prosecution remains one of the most serious forms of repression;
- D. whereas representatives of democratic forces are still detained in inhumane conditions; whereas political prisoners continue to report deteriorating health, humiliation and ill-treatment;
- E. whereas the Belarusian authorities have repeatedly committed violations of human rights against their citizens, including the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association; whereas repression continues to affect all sections of society, from academia to the media to human rights defenders;
- F. whereas the Belarusian authorities continue to adopt measures restricting the rights of Belarusians living abroad; whereas people returning to Belarus were arrested in 2022 and 2023 for their participation in the 2020 protests or for sharing material deemed 'extremist' on social media;
- 1. Expresses its solidarity with Mikalai Statkevich, his family and all other persons unlawfully imprisoned; stands in solidarity with the Belarusian people, who, despite severe repression, are still fighting for a free, democratic and sovereign country;
- 2. Continues to condemn in the strongest terms the ongoing repression of civil society, human rights defenders, journalists and political activists in Belarus;
- 3. Reiterates its demand for an immediate end to the repression and the unconditional release of all political prisoners and arbitrarily detained, arrested or sentenced for political

reasons, calls on withdrawal of all charges against them, as well as their full rehabilitation and financial compensation for the damage suffered as a result of their deprivation of liberty;

4. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to end all repression, persecution, torture and ill-treatment of people, and reminds the authorities of their obligation to respect the human rights of all Belarusian citizens, including the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association;
5. 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, the authorities of the Republic of Belarus, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.