



Plenary sitting

B9-0254/2023

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))

Željana Zovko, Janina Ochojska, David McAllister, Sandra Kalniete, Luděk Niedermayer, Ivan Štefanec, Christian Sagartz, David Lega, Peter Pollák, Andrey Kovatchev, Michaela Šojdrová, Vladimír Bilčík, Tomáš Zdechovský, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Seán Kelly, Andrzej Halicki, Radosław Sikorsk
on behalf of the PPE Group

B9-0254/2023

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 Viktor Babaryka, a former expected presidential candidate, sentenced in July 2021 to 14 years in a high-security penal colony on politically motivated charges of bribery and money laundering, was hospitalised in a civil hospital with traces of beatings;
- B. whereas March 2023 report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights reports that detention conditions amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and in some cases torture; prisoners are not provided with timely medical aid or legal counsel;
- C. whereas Viktor Babaryka was held in Navapolack penal colony No. 1, along with other 90 political prisoners; whereas this colony is currently headed by Ruslan Mashadiev, is infamous for violent treatment and torture of the political prisoners;
- D. whereas the widespread impunity for human rights violations perpetuates the desperate situation of the Belarusian people; whereas Belarus is the only country in Europe to still carry out capital punishment; whereas the absence of the rule of law impedes their right to a fair trial;
- E. whereas Nikolai Klimovich, who was jailed over a satirical drawing of Aleksandr Lukashenko, died in penal colony No. 3 in Vitebsk region on 7 May;
- F. whereas there are currently more than 1500 political prisoners in Belarus;
1. Demands the immediate and unconditional release of Viktor Babaryka and all political prisoners;
 2. Demands to guarantee their ability to receive adequate medical care (including treatment abroad on humanitarian grounds) and full access to their families and lawyers of their own choice;
 3. Calls on the European Council and the Commission to actively and immediately secure the release of Viktor Babaryka and others political prisoners;
 4. Strongly condemns the violence and torture in Belarusian prisons, and violations of human rights of political prisoners, their families, and legal representatives;
 5. Calls on the Lukashenka regime to allow diplomats and representatives from

international organizations access to political prisoners, in order to assess the conditions, in which they are kept and what emergency aid they need;

6. Reiterates that the crimes committed by the Lukashenka regime against the people of Belarus must not go unpunished and all those responsible for committing systematic violence and repression must face justice, such as among others Ivan Kurbakov, Minister of Internal Affairs and Oleg Matkin, Head of Corrective Department of Ministry of Internal Affairs
7. Calls on the EU and its Member States to broaden and strengthen the EU sanctions against individuals and entities involved in inhumane treatment of political prisoners in Belarus, especially prison and penal colony officials;
8. Urges the Lukashenka regime to end its practice of imposing forced labour in penal colonies;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the VP/HR, the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the CoE, the OSCE, the representatives of the Belarusian democratic opposition and the de facto authorities of the Republic of Belarus.