

March 24, 2021

Open letter to the Belarusian regime: Free all political prisoners in Belarus

As Members of Parliament from four European countries we stand firmly by the side of the people of Belarus. They have been campaigning for democracy, the rule of law, human rights, freedom and fair elections tirelessly and peacefully for months. We admire their courage, strength and stamina.

The presidential elections in August 2020 were neither free nor fair. Massive electoral fraud on a large scale can be proven without any doubt. We do not recognise Alexander Lukashenko as Belarusian president. His regime does not have any democratic legitimacy.

As Members of Parliament, we strongly condemn the actions of the Belarusian regime. We condemn the arbitrary and politically motivated arrests. We condemn the violence against supporters of the opposition and the use of torture in Belarusian prisons, which has been proven many times. We condemn the politically motivated trials against innocent people and the impunity for the perpetrators. The Belarusian regime disregards fundamental human rights and democratic values with its utterly unacceptable actions.

As Members of Parliament, we call on the Belarusian regime to immediately and unconditionally release all those imprisoned for political reasons; to immediately end violence, arbitrary arrest, torture and repression of citizens, human rights organisations and independent journalists. We urge you to allow fair and free new elections under international election monitoring by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) immediately.

As Members of Parliament, we regard it as our duty to stand for democratic values and have therefore taken over godparenthood for one or more of the current over 285 political prisoners in Belarus. We are in contact with their families and friends. We are following developments in Belarus closely and will not stop campaigning for the unconditional and immediate release of all political prisoners in Belarus. They deserve our respect and our full solidarity and support.

In order to emphasise our demand for the release of all political prisoners in Belarus, we support the campaign of Libereco - Partnership for Human Rights and call on others to sign it.

The Belarusian democracy movement can continue to rely on our solidarity and our advocacy for the respect of human rights in Belarus.

Signatories:

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