



IDU

The Global Alliance
of the Centre Right

Belarus

Resolution tabled by the Belarus Popular Front BPF and the United Civil Party UCP at the IDU Executive Meeting on 29th July 2020

The Political situation in Belarus ahead of the August, 9 presidential elections is heating up very rapidly. We are witnessing the biggest wave in the decade of people's mobilization for freedom, independence and the rule of law, which is not subsiding even in the face of severe repression by the ruling regime of Alaksandar Lukasenka.

- Over the past couple of months, the regime has jailed dozens of Belarusians under criminal charges, 25 of whom (as of July, 21) are currently recognized by human rights organizations as political prisoners, including popular presidential wannabe candidates *Siargiej Cichanouski* and *Viktar Babaryka*, independent youtube bloggers *Zmicier Kazlou*, *Alaksandar Kabanau*, *Siarhiej Piatruchin*, administrator of popular Telegram channel *Ihar Losik*.
- Politician and writer *Paval Seviarynec* has been arrested for more than a month and, according to numerous testimonies, tortured.
- The two most popular contenders *Viktar Babaryka* and *Valery Capkala* were denied registration as presidential candidates.
- Hundreds of Belarusians, mostly young people, were detained and beaten for participating in peaceful demonstrations for free elections, including IDU-member parties activists from the BPF Party and UCP.
- Dozens of journalists (43 as of July, 21) were detained while performing their professional duties since start of electoral campaign, and Radio Free Europe - Radio Liberty journalist *Anton Trafimovic* was beaten and injured while being detained by police.

All these actions by the Belarusian regime, in close cooperation with the newly formed electoral commission, have made this election process unfree and unfair right from the start.



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Therefore, the IDU

- strongly condemns all forms of repression by the regime against Belarusian society, opposition and independent journalists;
- expresses its solidarity with the people of Belarus in their pursuit of freedom, democracy and independence; and,
- stands strong with its member parties BPF and UCP in their fight for freedom and democracy in Belarus.

The IDU calls on the regime in Belarus to

- immediately release all political prisoners;
- immediately stop political repression;
- immediately stop pressure on independent journalists;
- objectively investigate the torture of Radio Free Europe - Radio Liberty journalist *Anton Trafimovic*;
- provide journalists with the opportunity to do their work without hindrance, including collection and spreading of information;
- ensure that Belarusian citizens can practice all the basic freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of Belarus and international agreements signed by Belarus, including freedom of speech and freedom of assembly;
- start a nationwide dialogue with the political opposition and society to institute truly free and fair elections.

The IDU calls on its members and national governments, as well as on the EU leadership, to support the people of Belarus in their pursuit of freedom, democracy and independence, including the release of all political prisoners and the guarantee to hold free and fair elections.

The IDU urges Russia to respect national sovereignty of Belarus and to refrain from any attempt to act against the interests of the people of Belarus.