

## Freedom for Belarus

July 22, 2020

In Belarus the regime yet again started its crackdown on the society. It is attacking the presidential candidates and their teams, opposition figures, civil society, media and innocent civilians in the run-up of the presidential elections announced by the authorities and scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> of August.

The two leading contenders that challenged the incumbent, Siarhei Tsihanousky and Viktor Babaryka are thrown in jail, as well as several members of their teams. The pressure on their supporters continues.

Dozens of activists were jailed for participation in legal peaceful rallies, including prominent opposition leaders Mikola Statkevich and Pavel Seviarynets.

There is information that all those detained and arrested are kept in unbearable conditions, in cold cells, deprived even of hygienic items for basic needs, that they are subjected to tortures.

The unlawful and unwarranted detentions of innocent citizens continue on a daily basis, excessive police force is being used.

The behavior of the regime in Belarus runs counter to all international obligations of the country on democracy and election standards.

Human rights and basic freedoms of the Belarusians are grossly violated and it cannot be ignored and tolerated by international community.

- We support the people of Belarus that demand respect for their rights and freedoms and stand for free and fair election.
- We demand immediate and unconditional release of all those who were subjected to politically motivated detentions and arrests.
- We urge the authorities of Belarus to give people back free and fair elections according to international standards that they have been deprived of for a long time.
- We also urge the authorities to comply with their international obligations to ensure freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and freedom of speech, unblock independent media, and stop harassment of journalists and politically motivated persecutions.
- We denounce the escalation of police brutality against peaceful gatherings, journalists, and ordinary citizens, and warn the authorities of Belarus against any use of violence and force during the ongoing political campaign.
- We urge international human rights organizations, European Union, democratic countries to react resolutely and take strong measures to prevent the dangerous practices of the authorities in Belarus.
- We appeal to the international community to support the people of Belarus in their fight for freedom.

**#freedomforbelarus**