

**КАНФЕРЭНЦЫЯ
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Unconstitutional Seizure of Power: Why A. Lukashenka Must Be Barred from the 2025 Election

[New Belarus Conference 03/08-04/08 2024]

Statement by the democratic forces of Belarus

We, the democratic forces of Belarus, declare that the upcoming 2025 presidential election is nothing more than another simulation.

Aliaksandr Lukashenka, who holds power criminally, must not be allowed to participate in this election. Another simulated election cannot be recognized as a constitutional means of forming power in Belarus, as Lukashenka has been in power three times longer than the Belarusian Constitution permits.

In 1996, Aliaksandr Lukashenka unconstitutionally changed the constitution of Belarus, carrying out a coup d'état. The introduction of the new constitution endowed him with authoritarian powers. Those events marked the beginning of Belarus' isolation from the international community.

In 2020, the election was won by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya; however, A. Lukashenka continued to hold power through force, once again carrying out an unconstitutional seizure of power.

Throughout A. Lukashenka's rule, the rights and freedoms of individuals in Belarus have been systematically suppressed. Political murders have been committed, with Yury Zakharenka, Viktor Hanchar, and Anatol Krasouski being the first victims. Following the events of 2020, the number of victims and crimes against humanity has significantly increased. Repression has intensified, including mass detentions, torture, and brutal treatment of detainees. Opposition political parties, civil society organizations, independent media, and the freedom of peaceful assembly have been eradicated.

Russian support has become the second significant factor, after repression, that has allowed A. Lukashenka to unlawfully hold onto power. Throughout his rule, A. Lukashenka has maintained close ties with Russia, gradually surrendering the sovereignty of Belarus. This process has been accompanied by the elimination of the Belarusian language and culture, as well as increased dependence on Russia.

The Lukashenka regime has become a co-aggressor by providing Belarusian territory as a launching pad for Russian troops to invade Ukraine. Lukashenka himself has been involved in the forcible displacement of Ukrainian children to Belarus, where they are subjected to Russification and ideological indoctrination, which constitutes a war crime.

We call on international organizations and the public not to recognize the results of the upcoming 2025 presidential election in Belarus. This election will be a simulation and will not reflect the true will of the Belarusian people.

*Adopted at the New Belarus Conference
Vilnius, August 3-4, 2024*