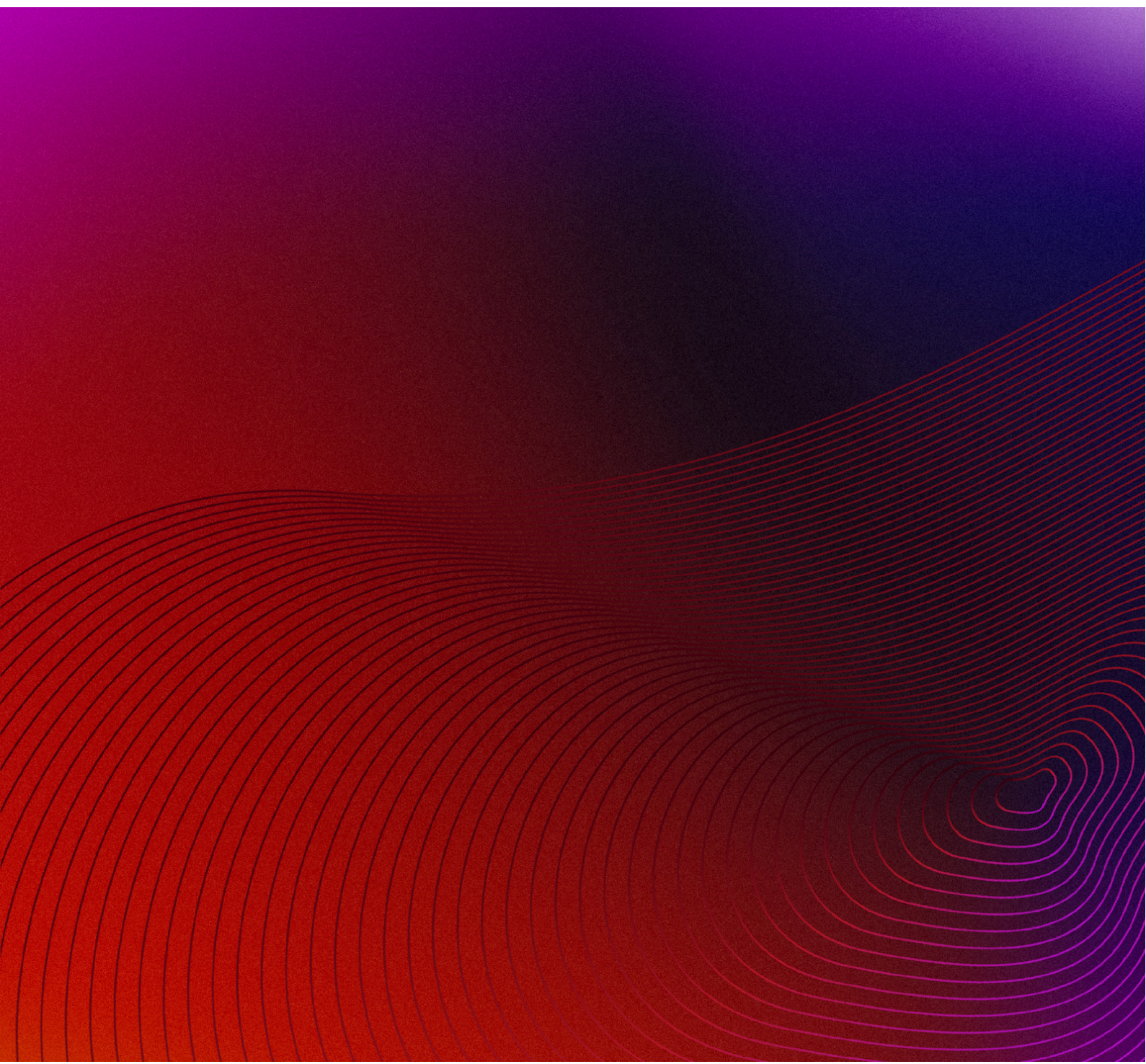


КАНФЕРЭНЦЫЯ
НОВАЯ
БЕЛАРУСЬ ²⁰²⁵

Release of Political Prisoners Without New Victims

Resolution by the Democratic Forces of Belarus
for the New Belarus Conference 2025



As of June 2025, there are at least 1,180 political prisoners in Belarus. These are not just numbers but stories of people imprisoned for their beliefs, words, or peaceful activities. According to human rights defenders and testimonies of former inmates, prison conditions pose a direct threat to life and health, with the lack of medical care, complete isolation from family and lawyers, and arbitrary extensions of sentences.

In 2024, a pardon process was initiated, resulting in the release of 316 individuals to date. We welcome this step and consider it a necessary beginning. However, for every person released, dozens of new arrests occur. In the first half of 2025 alone, around 1,700 new political detentions were recorded in Belarus.

This approach increasingly resembles the practice of *Häftlingsfreikauf* in East Germany (GDR), where political prisoners were released in exchange for money or goods, while the scale of repression only grew. As a result, more than 200,000 political prisoners passed through GDR prisons. This is not humanitarianism but political trafficking in human beings.

We stand for the release of political prisoners, though not at the cost of new victims. We call on the authorities of Belarus to:

- stop political repression and the persecution of citizens for their views;
- end torture and inhuman treatment of political prisoners;
- guarantee lawyers uninterrupted and permanent access to their clients;
- end the intimidation of lawyers so that they can effectively perform their role in defending prisoners;
- abolish the practices of forced deportations and undocumented releases that leave people in an uncertain legal status;
- allow access for international missions and observers to places of detention;
- launch a genuine process of release and full rehabilitation of all those imprisoned on political grounds.

We appeal to democratic states, international organizations, and humanitarian initiatives to:

- use all available diplomatic and humanitarian mechanisms to achieve the full and unconditional release of all political prisoners;
- stand firm on principles and prevent the scenario where, while some are released, others are imprisoned instead;
- support those who fight for freedom in Belarus and beyond.

The release of political prisoners must mark the beginning of the end of repressions, not become part of political bargaining. To truly protect human dignity and break the cycle of violence, those behind bars must be freed, and the entire system of political persecution must be dismantled at the same time.

New Belarus Conference, August 2025