

ON COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION AND PROTECTING BELARUSIANS ABROAD

Warsaw, Poland, 08–09.08.2026

We, the democratic forces of Belarus,

- guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture, and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;
- taking into account that, since 2020, the Lukashenka regime's transnational repression against individuals and organizations outside Belarus has become persistent and systematic;
- understanding transnational repression as actions by the authorities and officials of the Lukashenka regime, as well as by individuals and entities acting on their instructions, with their assistance, under their control, or in coordination with them, carried out outside Belarus or carried out within Belarus but aimed at influencing individuals and organizations abroad for the purpose of intimidation, punishment, coercion, isolation, obstructing legitimate activities, or forcing people to return to Belarus;
- noting that documented cases and practices include direct physical force, trials in absentia and convictions in absentia, the use of extradition and international wanted-person mechanisms for politically motivated purposes, passport and consular restrictions, pressure on relatives and property-related pressure, digital persecution, the use of covert surveillance, information gathering and recruitment attempts for the purposes of intimidation, blackmail, or coercion, as well as the forced expulsion of released political prisoners outside Belarus without their free and informed consent;
- noting that repressive measures applied within Belarus, including searches and interrogations of relatives, criminal prosecution, property-related pressure, and the creation of obstacles to obtaining or using documents, are used to exert pressure on Belarusians and Belarusian organizations abroad;
- expressing particular concern that lawful education, teaching, and payment for educational services abroad are being used as grounds for pressure, particularly in the case of the European Humanities University, increasing the vulnerability of its students, graduates, faculty, and staff, their relatives, and individuals who pay for tuition;
- recognizing the particular vulnerability of politicians, civic activists, journalists, human rights defenders, volunteers, students and educators, organizers of diaspora communities, released and forcibly expelled political prisoners, their relatives, as well as Belarusians abroad who are not engaged in public activities;
- emphasizing that the systems of Interpol, extradition, migration, and international legal cooperation must not be used for politically motivated persecution;

- noting that certain acts of transnational repression carried out by the Lukashenka regime constitute individual elements of crimes against humanity committed in a cross-border context;
- welcoming the decision by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to initiate an investigation into the situation referred by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, which covers such crimes against humanity as deportation and persecution through deportation of any identified group or community on political grounds, allegedly committed by the authorities of Belarus across borders;

adopt this resolution to:

1. strongly condemn the Lukashenka regime's transnational repression as a continuation of political persecution beyond Belarus and as a threat to the security of Belarusian citizens and the states that host them;
2. recognize that these practices threaten the right to liberty and personal security, create the risk of arbitrary deprivation of liberty, torture, and cruel treatment upon return to Belarus, restrict freedom of movement, including the ability to leave and return to the country, as well as the right to education and academic freedom, the right to private and family life, freedom of expression and freedom of association, and access to employment, healthcare, and social protection;
3. emphasize that lawful education, lawful employment, lawful donations, civic and political activities abroad, and family ties must not serve as grounds for persecution, restriction of rights, or other forms of pressure;
4. express solidarity with all those affected by transnational repression, as well as with organizations, universities, human rights defenders, lawyers, and communities that support affected individuals, and with all those who provide them with protection and assistance;
5. acknowledge the investigation by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, which covers alleged crimes against humanity committed by representatives of the Lukashenka regime, as a key international accountability mechanism for addressing transnational repression.

WE DEMAND THAT THE LUKASHENKA REGIME:

- immediately end all forms of transnational repression against individuals and organizations outside Belarus, including threats, persecution, coercion, and other forms of pressure, as well as the use of covert surveillance, information gathering, and recruitment attempts for the purposes of intimidation, blackmail, coercion, or persecution;
- end politically motivated criminal proceedings in absentia, withdraw politically motivated extradition requests and international wanted-person requests, and annul decisions made in such cases;
- stop exerting pressure on relatives, applying property-related pressure, and persecuting individuals for lawful education, teaching, employment, donations, receiving assistance,

and participation in public events outside Belarus; repeal decisions and practices that criminalize such activities;

- restore full consular services, stop the politically motivated withdrawal of passports and declarations of passports as invalid, as well as other practices that leave people without valid identity documents or force them to return to Belarus under conditions that threaten their safety;
- stop the forced expulsion of political prisoners after their release; release must not be conditional on agreeing to leave Belarus, and those released must be provided with a genuine choice of place of residence, access to legal counsel, documents, medical assistance, and communication with their families.

WE CALL ON STATES THAT HOST BELARUSIANS TO:

- ensure effective protection of Belarusians on their territory from transnational repression and prevent the actions of the Lukashenka regime from resulting in additional restrictions on their rights, legal status, or participation in public and political life;
- prevent extradition, deportation, or any other return to Belarus due to the risk of torture, cruel treatment, or politically motivated persecution, and conduct an individual assessment of all relevant circumstances, including criminal proceedings in absentia and politically motivated decisions, public and professional activities, education or employment at organizations targeted by the regime, donations, and risks faced by relatives in Belarus;
- carefully examine requests from the Lukashenka regime submitted through Interpol, extradition, mutual legal assistance, and migration procedures, and not consider decisions by its authorities as sufficient evidence that charges are not politically motivated or that criminal prosecution is justified;
- issue alternative identity documents, ensure stable legal status and access to essential services for people who cannot safely seek assistance from Belarusian consular institutions or return to Belarus; provide forcibly expelled persons with access to temporary accommodation, medical and psychosocial assistance, the labor market, and family reunification procedures;
- support continuity of education, safe departure, access to visas, and provide legal and psychological assistance to students, graduates, faculty, and staff who have faced pressure in connection with their studies or work at foreign educational institutions;
- promptly review and, where there are grounds, investigate reports of threats, unlawful surveillance, attempted forced recruitment, blackmail, provocations, and violence against Belarusian citizens, Belarusian communities, and organizations; establish clear and secure channels for reporting such incidents;
- apply risk mitigation protocols for relatives who remain in Belarus and do not disclose sensitive data without the informed consent of affected individuals and a prior assessment of possible consequences;
- support the investigation by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court into the situation referred by the Republic of Lithuania, including by providing the Court with relevant information and evidence, ensuring the safe participation of victims and witnesses located on their territory; and for States Parties to the Rome Statute, also

consider referring, in accordance with Article 14 of the Statute, information concerning alleged crimes connected to this situation that were committed on their territory or otherwise fall within the jurisdiction of the Court.

WE CALL ON THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, THE UNITED NATIONS, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO:

- establish sustainable procedures for intergovernmental information exchange and response to transnational repression, including risks related to documents, consular services, education, extradition, and digital security;
- support interoperable and secure documentation systems, as well as the exchange of anonymized information while respecting the principles of data minimization, access control, informed consent, and prior risk assessment for affected individuals and their relatives;
- apply targeted restrictive measures against individuals and entities whose involvement has been established by competent authorities or confirmed by a body of credible and verifiable information, and support the implementation of national and international accountability mechanisms within their mandates;
- support independent Belarusian media, human rights organizations, assistance funds, universities, and diaspora initiatives that identify cases of transnational repression, provide consultations to affected individuals, and offer practical protection;
- provide political, expert, and financial support for the International Criminal Court's investigation into the situation referred by the Republic of Lithuania, and facilitate cooperation between states and the Court.

WE TASK THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF BELARUS TO:

- within six months, designate an authorized coordinating body on countering transnational repression, involving human rights organizations, diaspora, educational, and expert organizations;
- develop a unified secure protocol for receiving reports, documenting cases, referring individuals for legal assistance, support with obtaining and processing documents, medical and psychological assistance, as well as informing states that host Belarusians; ensure data minimization, access control, and the possibility of submitting reports anonymously;
- include protection against forced expulsion, a genuine choice of place of residence, access to documents and legal counsel, as well as the ability to maintain contact with family members in all negotiations and agreements concerning the release of political prisoners;
- annually assess the implementation of this resolution and, no later than the beginning of the next Conference, publicly present an anonymized overview of identified forms of transnational repression, protection measures taken, and unresolved challenges in ensuring the safety and rights of affected individuals.

Politically motivated persecution of Belarusians must not continue either inside or outside the country, nor must it remain without a response. Protecting affected individuals, preventing new cases, and holding those responsible accountable are integral parts of protecting human rights and building a free, democratic, and rule-of-law Belarus.

*Resolution by the Democratic Forces of Belarus
for the New Belarus Conference 2026
(Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya,
United Transitional Cabinet,
Coordination Council,
Platform of Political Parties)*