

ON ENDING POLITICAL PERSECUTION IN BELARUS, RELEASING POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND SUPPORTING THOSE AFFECTED BY REPRESSION AND THEIR FAMILIES

Warsaw, Poland, 08–09.08.2026

Political repression in Belarus continues, becoming increasingly concealed and severe. The Lukashenka regime deliberately obscures the true scale of its terror, while new arrests take place every day. The human rights community currently officially recognizes approximately 1,000 political prisoners, but the actual number of people imprisoned on politically motivated charges is many times higher.

The democratic forces of Belarus highly value the efforts of governments — first and foremost the United States administration — as well as international organizations, human rights and humanitarian organizations, and other actors that have contributed to the release of political prisoners. We support continued coordination of humanitarian, diplomatic, and sanctions-based measures to secure the release of political prisoners, safeguard Belarus's independence, end political repression, and stop the regime's complicity in Russia's aggression. Any possible easing of individual sanctions should be proportionate to the regime's concrete actions and must not create incentives for taking new political hostages.

We, the democratic forces of Belarus, jointly demand:

1. the full, immediate, and unconditional release of all persons imprisoned in Belarus on politically motivated grounds;
2. an end to the use of political prisoners as hostages and instruments of political coercion;
3. the unconditional protection of the rights, dignity, and freedom of choice of those who are released while supporting humanitarian and diplomatic efforts to secure their release;
4. an end to the forced expulsion or transfer of political prisoners outside Belarus without their free and informed consent as a substitute for their genuine release in their homeland;
5. the complete cessation of politically motivated persecution, the annulment of all unjust rulings, and the full rehabilitation of all those affected — both those who remain in Belarus and those in exile.

We call on democratic countries and international organizations to:

- maintain the strategic objective of securing the release of all political prisoners while making use of every reasonable opportunity to achieve the immediate release of individual prisoners and groups without legitimizing the continued imprisonment of those who remain behind bars;
- use all available instruments of international pressure to compel the regime to bring politically motivated persecution to a complete and permanent end, including by holding those responsible for crimes against humanity accountable and applying sustained, systematic pressure;
- increase long-term support for the human rights and humanitarian sectors of Belarus's civil society, which document the regime's crimes, support those subjected to repression and those released from prison, and assist the families of political prisoners and other victims of repression;
- advocate for comprehensive, long-term reintegration and support programs — including medical, psychological, legal, and other forms of assistance — for former political prisoners, politically persecuted individuals, and their families, both inside Belarus and in countries of exile;
- simplify access, in countries of residence, to legal status, international protection, humanitarian visas, alternative identity documents, labor markets, and family reunification procedures for political prisoners and politically persecuted individuals, taking into account each person's individual circumstances.

For our part, the democratic forces of Belarus commit to:

- ensuring effective coordination of political and humanitarian efforts aimed at securing the release of political prisoners, advocating for the interests of those subjected to repression, and supporting their families;
- continuing systematic efforts to document the regime's crimes, collect evidence, and assist international judicial bodies — including the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague — in holding those responsible accountable;
- supporting and promoting comprehensive long-term rehabilitation and assistance plans and programs for all those harmed by the regime's actions;
- strengthening partnerships with international institutions and governments to simplify bureaucratic procedures and ensure that assistance reaches every former political prisoner and politically persecuted person who needs it;
- maintaining a common position and unity on the fundamental principles of the inviolability of human rights, the sovereignty of Belarus, and the inevitability of accountability for repression.

*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)*