

Appeal to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Participating States

ON THE NEED TO TAKE URGENT MEASURES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CRISIS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

We, representatives of civil society organizations and citizens of participating states of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE):

- Expressing our concern over credible reports of serious and widespread violations of human rights and civil liberties in Belarus after the presidential elections on December 19, 2010;
- Taking special note of the gross violations of the prohibition on inhuman treatment and torture during arrest and while being held in custody; violations of the right to due process and fair trial during investigation and court proceedings; intimidation during searches and interrogation, as well as at work and school; pressure on journalists and lawyers, as well as family members of the detained; and the confiscation of computers to paralyze the activities of nongovernmental organizations, human rights defenders and civil society activists;
- Noting that many of these violations have been directly aimed at the creation of hindrances to the activities of civil society institutions in breach of the fundamental rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association;
- Sincerely wishing to stop the persecution of civil society organizations and activists and to restore civilized dialogue between the authorities and civil society of Belarus;
- Underscoring that at the OSCE summit in Astana on December 1-2, 2010, Belarus, along with all other OSCE participating states, reaffirmed “categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned”;

appeal to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe participating states to:

1. Immediately condemn the serious and widespread human rights violations in Belarus that have followed the presidential elections of December 19, 2010, and urge the authorities of Belarus to observe its OSCE human dimension commitments;
2. Urgently undertake action in response to the human rights crisis in Belarus and display a determined and persistent stance in their relationship with the authorities of Belarus;
3. Immediately begin the procedure to initiate the “Moscow Mechanism” in light of the particularly serious threat to the fulfillment of the provisions of the OSCE human dimension by the authorities of Belarus.

Signatures under the Appeal to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Participating States “On the Need to Take Urgent Measures in Connection with the Crisis with Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Republic of Belarus”

(as of 24:00 msc 11 January 2011)

ORGANISATIONS

International Non-Governmental Organisations

1. Human Rights Watch
2. Amnesty International
3. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
4. Human Rights First
5. Front Line, International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
6. Freedom House
7. ARTICLE 19
8. Eurasia IDEA Network
9. International Youth Human Rights Movement
10. International Socio-Ecological Union
11. International Historical Educational Human Rights Charitable Society "Memorial"
12. Advocates Europe
13. CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Armenia

14. Helsinki Association, Armenia
15. Helsinki Citizen's Assembly, Armenia
16. Armenian Helsinki Committee, Armenia
17. "Eco Lore", Armenia

Austria

18. Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights, Austria

Azerbaijan

19. Center for Legal Reforms, Azerbaijan
20. FAR Center, Azerbaijan
21. Human Rights Center, Azerbaijan
22. Center for National and International Studies, Azerbaijan
23. Media Rights Center, Azerbaijan
24. Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety, Azerbaijan
25. Public Union for Protection of Oil Workers' Rights, Azerbaijan
26. Eco-Renaissance, Azerbaijan

Belarus

27. Leo Sapega Foundation, Belarus
28. Civic Initiative "For Freedom of Conscience", Belarus
29. Center for Legal Transformation, Belarus
30. Center for Social Innovations, Belarus
31. Research Institution "Analytical group CET", Belarus
32. International Centre for Civic Initiatives "Our House", Belarus
33. Center for European Studies, "New Europe" journal, Belarus
34. Movement "For Freedom", Belarus
35. Humanitarian Technologies Agency, Belarus
36. International Consortium EUROBELARUS, Belarus
37. Independent Women's Movement, Belarus
38. The Enlightenment Human Rights Institution "Office on the Rights of People with Disabilities", Belarus
39. NGO "Ecohome", Belarus
40. Public Project "Belovezhskaya Pushcha - 21st Century", Belarus
41. Republican Association of the Disabled on Wheelchairs, Belarus

Belgium

42. International Partnership for Human Rights, Belgium
43. Office for a Democratic Belarus, Belgium

Bulgaria

- 44. Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Bulgaria
- 45. Rule of Law Institute, Bulgaria

Estonia

- 46. Open Estonia Foundation, Estonia
- 47. Open Republic, Estonia
- 48. "New Path for Belarus", Estonia

Czech Republic

- 49. People in Need Foundation, Czech Republic

France

- 50. Association for Human Rights in Central Asia, France

Georgia

- 51. "Article 24 of the Constitution", Georgia / Article 42 of the Constitution, Georgia
- 52. Association "Green Alternative", Georgia

Germany

- 53. European Exchange GmbH Berlin, Germany
- 54. Human Rights in Belarus e.V. Berlin, Germany
- 55. urgewald, Germany

Hungary

- 56. The Hungarian Europe Society, Hungary

Italy

- 57. International Network "Freedom, Legality and Rights in Europe" - FLARE, Italy

Kazakhstan

- 58. Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, Kazakhstan
- 59. NGO "Info Plus Tapaz", Kazakhstan
- 60. Association «Azamattyk Kuryltai» (Civil Council), Kazakhstan
- 61. NGO "URPAK", Kazakhstan
- 62. Public Association «Blago», Kazakhstan
- 63. International Centre for Journalism "MediaNet", Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

- 64. Citizens against Corruption, Kyrgyzstan
- 65. International Human Rights Documentary film festival "One World - Kyrgyzstan", Kyrgyzstan
- 66. Women Learning Partnership, Kyrgyzstan
- 67. Civic Journalism, Kyrgyzstan
- 68. Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society, Kyrgyzstan

Moldova

- 69. Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims "Memoria", Moldova
- 70. Resource Center of Moldovan Non-Governmental Organisations for Human Rights "Credo", Moldova
- 71. Information Center on Human Rights, Moldova
- 72. Promo-Lex, Moldova
- 73. Republican Center for Children and Youth "GUTTA-Club"

The Netherlands

- 74. Netherlands Helsinki Committee, The Netherlands

Norway

- 75. Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Norway

Poland

- 76. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Poland
- 77. Belarusian Schuman Society, Poland

Romania

78. ICAR Foundation, Romania

Russia

79. Moscow Helsinki Group, Russia
80. Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, Russia
81. Public Verdict Foundation, Russia
82. Ecological Center "Dront", Russia
83. Ecological Association "Green world", Russia
84. "Civic Assistance for Refugees and IDPs" Committee, Russia
85. Human Rights Institute, Russia
86. All-Russian Movement "For Human Rights", Russia
87. Citizens' Watch, Russia
88. "Ecodefence!", Russia
89. Public Commission for Preservation of the Heritage of Academician Sakharov, Russia
90. Public Ecological Center of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russia
91. Society for the Protection of Consumers' Rights of the City of Yakutsk, Russia
92. Environmental and Human Rights Center "Bellona", Russia
93. Center for Journalism in Extreme Situations, Russia

Spain

94. Access Info Europe, Spain

Sweden

95. Culture Clinic, Sweden
96. The Swedish Mission Council, Sweden
97. Civil Rights Defenders, Sweden
98. Forum Syd, Sweden

Tajikistan

99. Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Tajikistan
100. Taraqqiet Development Centre, Tajikistan

United Kingdom

101. Evangelical Alliance UK, United Kingdom

United States

102. Crude Accountability, USA

Uzbekistan

103. Expert Working Group, Uzbekistan
104. Committee for the Release of Prisoners of Conscience in Uzbekistan
105. Human Rights Organisation "Club of Flaming Hearts", Uzbekistan
106. Association "For Environmentally Clean Fergana", Uzbekistan

Ukraine

107. Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
108. International Helsinki Association on Human Rights, Ukraine
109. Foundation for Development of Legal Technologies, Ukraine
110. All-Ukrainian Youth NGO "Foundation of Regional Initiatives" (FRI), Ukraine
111. [Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research](#), Ukraine
112. Center for Civil Liberties, Ukraine

Individual signatures

Belarus

1. Ina Arekh, Belarus

2. Yegor Fedjushin, Director of the Institute for Human and Environmental Technology of the International Academy of Information Technology
3. Ihar Lalkou, Public association "BPF "Adradzhennie"", Belarus
4. Alexander Karalevich, Education Center "POST", Belarus

Moldova

5. Vyacheslav Balan, Moldova
6. Ludmila Popovici, Moldova

Russia

7. Alexei Yablokov, Professor, Moscow, Russia
8. Nailya Biktimirova, Kazan, Russia
9. Mark Pestov, PhD, Coordinator of the Society of Protection of Amphibia and Reptiles at the Ecological Center "Dront", Nizhny Novgorod, Russia
10. Sviatoslav Zabelin, Expert in the Environment, Moscow, Russia
11. Andrey Ozharovskiy, Moscow, Russia

Sweden

12. Katherine Cash, Sweden

Switzerland

13. Anna-Lena Svensson-McCarthy, Lawyer, Human Rights Consultant, Switzerland

Turkmenistan

14. Andrey Aranbaev, Turkmenistan
15. Umida Dzhumabaeva, Turkmenistan

United States

16. Susan A. Crate, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA
17. Leanne A. Grossman, Writer and Editor, USA
18. Linda PriceKing, member of the Board of Directors, Crude Accountability, Virginia, USA
19. Elena Bonner, USA

Uzbekistan

20. Pavel Kravets, journalist, Uzbekistan