



Prezydent
Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej

Warsaw, March 26, 2021

YOUR EXCELLENCY, DEAR MR. PRESIDENT

Allow me to begin with words of appreciation to you and your administration for your involvement and interest in the human rights situation in Belarus. Alarming, conditions there have deteriorated even further. Therefore, echoing my statement from the 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council of February this year, I kindly ask you as the current presidency of the United Nations Security Council to urgently address the topic at one of its upcoming meetings.

Ever since the presidential elections in August 2020, the internal situation for the Belarusian society has become tense and unstable. Faced with the exercise of basic human and democratic rights by the Belarusian society, the existing regime answered with repressions.

This had also a drastic impact on the Polish national minority in Belarus. The leader of the Union of Poles – the organization dedicated to the peaceful cultivation of Polish traditions – Andżelika Borys was arrested and imprisoned. Andrzej Poczobut, a renown Polish-Belarusian journalist is in custody as well. Furthermore, the Belarusian authorities also detained a number of headmasters and teachers of Polish schools – including Hanna Paniszewa, Maria Tiszkowska, and Irena Biernacka. It is my understanding that they are all targeted by the regime on political grounds, as members of the Belarusians society with links to the transatlantic democratic institutions. They are made an example of.

It needs to be highlighted that as a UN member state, Belarus is bound by international obligations. Among them is the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, according to which persons belonging to national minorities shall not be denied the right to their own culture, language or religion.

**His Excellency
Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington D.C.**

Furthermore, as the OSCE Participating State, Belarus has to remain faithful to the commitments made in this forum, including those firmly expressed in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Charter of Paris for the New Europe, or the 1990 Copenhagen Document. The all relate to the protection of national minorities.

Recent detentions and repressive actions are yet another sign of a much broader policy targeting not only the Polish national minority in Belarus, but also its already fragmented civil society. Poland believes it necessary for the international community to undertake serious steps in order to ensure that individual liberties, democratic freedoms and human rights – including those of national minorities in Belarus are protected. As history has shown, lack of attention and action in such cases may eventually lead to further deterioration.

Considering the above, I firmly believe it is our common responsibility to act, mobilize and engage the international community to attend to this pressing matter. Therefore, once again, I would like to put under your consideration the matter of bringing violations of human rights in Belarus and systematic persecution of its civil society, including the Polish minority, to the attention of the UN Security Council, under the current American Presidency in this important international body.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. J. ...', written in a cursive style.