



Reports on the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council

Urgent debate on the situation of human rights in Belarus

18 September 2020

Statements by nominated speakers:

Ms Nada Al-Nashif, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

Urges the Council to facilitate genuine dialogue; to further sustainable, peaceful and inclusive solutions for all the people of Belarus; and to prevent the cycles of violence from further escalating. The fundamental rights of all Belarusians should prevail over political interests and geopolitical calculations. OHCHR and the human rights mechanisms are ready to assist in assessing the human rights consequences of the current crisis and to provide recommendations and further technical assistance to address them.

Ms Anais Marin, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (*video-statement*)

It is the responsibility of the Belarusian State to prevent, investigate and punish the committed crimes. The Authorities should guarantee the right of victims of torture to obtain redress. Human rights violations are not an internal affair: they are of interest to the international community. The Authorities should reason and exercise restraint. The only possible way out of this crisis is dialogue, which must be open, honest, and inclusive, involving all stakeholders and sectors of society, including in particular civil society leaders. Belarusian society has changed considerably over the past years, and in recent months it developed a capacity for civil resilience. Belarusians are eager to see and take part in democratic changes. We should all continue working together to ensure that their legitimate will is respected.

Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Belarus Opposition Leader (*video-statement*)

The scope and the brutality of the extensive force used by the regime since the elections is in clear violation of all international norms and the UDHR. International community has to react in strongest terms. Peaceful citizens of Belarus demand to immediately cease violence against peaceful citizens, to ensure immediate release of all political prisoners, to allow entry and free movement to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, to allow an international monitoring mission to document the regime's atrocities, to ensure free and fair elections.

A witness account by **Ms Ekaterina Novikova**, a civic activist detained on 10 August (now released) (*video-statement*)

Points of Order:

Belarus, Russian Federation, Venezuela, China:

- The format of the Urgent Debate does not allow for participation of the Deputy High Commissioner, special mandate holders or other bodies. Only the representatives of States should be able to take the floor.
- The statements by the Deputy High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur should be excluded from the Minutes of this meeting.
- The interventions by the Special Rapporteur and Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya should be ceased.

Germany, Netherlands, Denmark:

- Do not support the Points of Order made by Belarus, Russian Federation, Venezuela and China.
- Ask to continue the debate according to the established pattern.

H.E. Ms Elizabeth Tichy-Filsberg, President of the Human Rights Council:

- There are no Rules of Procedure pre-established for the Urgent Debates.
- Therefore, the same procedure is being followed during this Urgent Debate as during the previous five urgent debates that took place in the past.
- Sticking to the precedents, during this urgent debate, the Deputy High Commissioner's statement will be followed by a limited number of speakers nominated by the states who initiated the Urgent Debate.

County Concerned (Belarus): During the recent period there have been no claims of the excessive use of force. Belarus denies unconfirmed allegations of sexual assault against detainees, as well as unconfirmed information about enforced disappearances. Allegations about the presence of political prisoners in the country are also ungrounded. The solution of this situation will be carried out within the framework of a broad national dialogue. Demands on political reforms will be considered when working on amendments to the Constitution. An expert group has been established, headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Court. The Government retains the right to determine the reaction to the Council's decision following these debates, including its cooperation with the OHCHR.



List of Speakers that took part in the Urgent Debate

<p>Germany on behalf of European Union (<i>the initiator of the Urgent debate</i>)</p> <p>High Dignitaries (Members of the Council): <i>Video-statements by Ministers of Foreign Affairs</i></p> <p>Denmark on behalf of Nordic countries (by H.E. Mr Jeppe Kofod)</p> <p>Slovakia (by H.E. Mr Ivan Korčok)</p> <p>Poland (by H.E. Mr Zbigniew Rau)</p> <p>Netherlands (by H.E. Mr Stephanus Blok)</p> <p>Ukraine (by H.E. Mr Dmytro Kuleba)</p> <p>Bulgaria (by H.E. Mr Georg Georgiev)</p> <p>High Dignitaries (Observers States): <i>Video-statements by Ministers of Foreign Affairs</i></p> <p>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (by H.E. Ms Wendy Morton)</p> <p>Estonia (by H.E. Mr Urmas Reinsalu)</p> <p>Latvia (by H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs)</p> <p>Luxembourg (by H.E. Mr Jean Asselborn)</p> <p>Lithuania (by Mr Linas Linkevičius)</p> <p>Romania (by Mr Bogdan Aurescu)</p> <p>Ireland (by Mr Simon Coveney)</p>	<p>Members of the Council:</p> <p>Canada on behalf of 35 states</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>Austria</p> <p>Venezuela (<i>video message</i>)</p> <p>Marshall Islands</p> <p>Spain</p> <p>Germany</p> <p>Mexico</p> <p>Uruguay</p> <p>Czech Republic</p> <p>Brazil</p> <p>Peru</p> <p>Indonesia</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Italy</p> <p>Philippines</p> <p>Eritrea</p>	<p>Observers:</p> <p>UN Women</p> <p>Finland</p> <p>Slovenia</p> <p>Liechtenstein</p> <p>Canada</p> <p>Russian Federation</p> <p>United Nations Children's Fund</p> <p>Belgium</p> <p>Cuba</p> <p>Nicaragua</p> <p>China</p> <p>Belarus</p> <p>Sweden (<i>video message</i>)</p> <p>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</p> <p>Switzerland</p> <p>Albania</p> <p>Egypt</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>Turkey</p> <p>Iceland</p>	<p>Civil Society:</p> <p>International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (Joint statement)</p> <p>International Commission of Jurists (Co-sponsor: International Bar Association)</p> <p>Human Rights Watch</p> <p>Human Rights House Foundation</p> <p>United Nations Watch</p> <p>World Organisation Against Torture</p> <p>Article 19 – International Centre Against Censorship</p> <p>Amnesty International</p> <p>CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation</p>
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<p>Draft Resolution A/HRC/45/L.1: “Situation of human rights in Belarus in the run up to the 2020 presidential election and its aftermath” (Item 1)</p> <p>Main sponsors: Germany on behalf of the European Union (no additional co-sponsors). <u>Adopted by vote: 23 for, 2 against, 22 abstentions.</u></p> <p>All 17 written Amendments (L2-L18) introduced by Russian Federation have been rejected.</p>	<p>Requests the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to closely monitor the human rights situation in Belarus in the context of the election, to present to the Human Rights Council, before the end of 2020, an interim oral update with recommendations, followed by an interactive dialogue, and a comprehensive written report on the human rights situation in the lead up to, during and after the 2020 presidential election in Belarus during an enhanced interactive dialogue at its 46th session</p>
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To watch full recording of the **Urgent Debate on Belarus**, please refer to the [UN Web TV](#). For **Consideration of draft resolutions**, please follow [this link](#).

Annex: Urgent Debate on Belarus: Action on Draft Resolution and Amendments																				
	A/HRC/45/L.1	Amendments:	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9	L10	L11	L12	L13	L14	L15	L16	L17	L18	
Afghanistan																				Afghanistan
Angola																				Angola
Argentina																				Argentina
Armenia																				Armenia
Australia																				Australia
Austria																				Austria
Bahamas																				Bahamas
Bahrain																				Bahrain
Bangladesh																				Bangladesh
Brazil																				Brazil
Bulgaria																				Bulgaria
Burkina Faso																				Burkina Faso
Cameroon																				Cameroon
Chile																				Chile
Czech Republic																				Czech Republic
DRC																				DRC
Denmark																				Denmark
Eritrea																				Eritrea
Fiji																				Fiji
Germany																				Germany
India																				India
Indonesia																				Indonesia
Italy																				Italy
Japan																				Japan
Libya																				Libya
Marshall Islands																				Marshall Islands
Mauritania																				Mauritania
Mexico																				Mexico
Namibia																				Namibia
Nepal																				Nepal
Netherlands																				Netherlands
Nigeria																				Nigeria
Pakistan																				Pakistan
Peru																				Peru
Philippines																				Philippines
Poland																				Poland
Qatar																				Qatar
Republic of Korea																				Republic of Korea
Senegal																				Senegal
Slovakia																				Slovakia
Somalia																				Somalia
Spain																				Spain
Sudan																				Sudan
Togo																				Togo
Ukraine																				Ukraine
Uruguay																				Uruguay
Venezuela																				Venezuela
	Adopted		Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	Rejected	