

Civil society organisations call for the immediate operationalisation of the Human Rights Council's new mandate on Belarus

We, the 65 undersigned Belarusian and international human rights organisations, welcome the resolution passed by the UN Human Rights Council mandating the High Commissioner to create a new robust monitoring and reporting mandate focused on accountability for human rights violations in Belarus that have taken place since 1 May 2020. In so doing, the Council demonstrated its determination to hold Belarusian authorities to account. This mandate needs immediate action. We urge the international community to support this critical next step.

The establishment of the High Commissioner's new mandate is a response to the serious and escalating human rights violations taking place in Belarus and surrounding the August 2020 presidential elections. The mandate should provide a complementary and expert international mechanism to regional accountability processes already under way. Furthermore, it should assist in the identification of those responsible for the most serious violations for future prosecution.

With the mounting human rights crisis in Belarus, the Council's action today is timely. It will require ongoing assistance and systematic follow-up by Human Rights Council members and the Office of the High Commissioner. In order for this new accountability mandate to meaningfully and substantively address the human rights crisis in Belarus, it is critical that the Office of the High Commissioner receives the assistance it will need to:

1. Ensure that this new mandate is sufficiently funded.
2. Appoint credible international experts with sufficient experience and expertise, including in international criminal law to fully and completely examine all alleged human rights violations committed in Belarus since 1 May 2020.
3. Operationalise the mandate with the requisite investigators, forensic experts, gender specialists, and legal analysts.
4. Provide a sufficient operational window for the mandate.
5. Report immediately and publicly to the Council on non-cooperation by the Belarusian authorities in the accountability mandate's work.
6. Commit to sharing advanced copies of its interim oral report and comprehensive written report with Belarusian, regional, and international civil society in the same manner and at the same time it is shared with member States and Belarusian authorities.

This is an important moment for the United Nations. The Belarusian people demand accountability for past and on-going human rights violations. Member States and the Office of the High Commissioner must ensure that this new mandate meets these demands.

Signed by:

Organisation Name	Organisation Country
Agir ensemble pour les droits humains	France
Amnesty International	International
ARTICLE 19	United Kingdom
Association UMDPL, member of Educational Human Rights House Chernihiv	Ukraine
B.a.B.e. Budi aktivna.Budi emancipiran., member of Human Rights House Zagreb	Croatia
Barys Zvozkau Belarusian Human Rights House	Belarus
Belarusian Helsinki Committee, member of Barys Zvozkau Belarusian Human Rights House	Belarus
Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan /FIDH	Kyrgyzstan
CCE "Almenda", member of Human Rights House Crimea	Ukraine
Center for Civil Liberties	Ukraine
Centre for Peace Studies, member of Human Rights House Zagreb	Croatia
Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights	Russian Federation
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation	South Africa
Civil Society and Freedom of Speech Initiative Center for the Caucasus	Russian Federation
CROSOL - Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity, member of Human Rights House Zagreb	Croatia
DefendDefenders (East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project)	Uganda
DRA (Deutsch-Russischer Austausch)	Germany
DRA (Deutsch-Russischer Austausch)	Germany
ECPM (Together Against the Death Penalty)	France

Educational Human Rights House - Chernihiv	Ukraine
Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center, member of Human Rights House Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
FIDH	France
Foundation of Regional Initiatives	Ukraine
Georgian Centre for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims - GCRT, member of Human Rights House Tbilisi	Georgia
Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor	Armenia
Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights	Poland
Human Rights Center of Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
Human Rights House Foundation	International
Human Rights House Yerevan, member of Human Rights House Yerevan	Armenia
Human Rights House Zagreb	Croatia
Human Rights Monitoring Institute	Lithuania
Human Rights Watch	International
humanrights.ch	Switzerland
International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)	United Kingdom
International Centre for civil initiatives "Our House"	Belarus
International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)	Switzerland
Kharkiv Regional Foundation "Public Alternative"	Ukraine
La Strada International	Netherlands
Law Society of England and Wales	United Kingdom

Legal Initiative, member of Barys Zvozkau Belarusian Human Rights House	Belarus
Legal policy research centre	Kazakhstan
Libereco - Partnership for Human Rights	Germany
Media Institute, member of Human Rights House Tbilisi	Georgia
Mental Health and Human Rights Info	Norway
Netherlands Helsinki Committee	Netherlands
NGO MART, member of Educational Human Rights House Chernihiv	Ukraine
Norwegian Helsinki Committee	Norway
Paris Bar / Barreau de Paris	France
Pink human rights defender NGO, member of Human Rights House Yerevan	Armenia
Promo LEX	Moldova
Public Association "Dignity"	Kazakhstan
Public Verdict Foundation	Russian Federation
Rights Georgia, member of Human Rights House Tbilisi	Georgia
RSF, Reporters Without Borders	International
Russian Research Centre for Human Rights	Russian Federation
SAR Europe	Ireland
Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network	Southern Africa
Swedish OSCE-network	Sweden
UNITED for Intercultural Action	Hungary

Viasna Human Rights Centre, member of Baryz Zvozkau Belarusian Human Rights House	Belarus
Vietnam Committee on Human Rights (VCHR)	France
Vostok SOS, member of Educational Human Rights House Chernihiv	Ukraine
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	International
World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)	Switzerland
ZMINA, member of Human Rights House Crimea	Ukraine