

Joint International Campaign For Justice From Belarusian Judges

On the initiative of Libereco – Partnership for Human Rights, twenty human rights organisations from ten different countries signed a letter that has been sent to 413 Belarusian judges. In the letter, the organisations call out the judges' involvement in human rights abuses and unjust imprisonment of innocent people in Belarus. The judges addressed have been involved in the political trials and sentencing of peaceful protestors, persons opposing Russia's war in Ukraine, and persons who just demanded basic rights, many of whom are now declared as political prisoners.

Belarusian judges play a vital part in the authoritarian regime of dictator Alexander Lukashenko. They regularly deny a defendant's basic legal rights to a fair trial, keep trials closed to the outside world, fail to maintain basic standards of impartiality, and regularly pass down punitive sentences. This makes them instrumental to Lukashenko's campaign of brutality and oppression, yet as a group their complicity has been largely ignored by the international community. This joint international campaign draws the judges into the spotlight.

Ken McBain, campaign lead and UK representative of Libereco said, "It is important that the regime's agents of these abuses understand how the world views their actions. We thank all of the organisations who have added their signature to this letter so that we send a strong message directly to the judges themselves. In their pledge to the Belarusian people, these judges swore to 'honestly and conscientiously fulfil my duties, to administer justice, obeying only the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, to be impartial and fair, as the duty of a judge commands me.' It is depressing how systematically these judges have done exactly the opposite of their pledge."

The closing part of the letter, posted individually to 413 judges' addresses in Belarus, says:

"You are in a position of authority and responsibility so we, all of the undersigned, ask that you exercise that authority and responsibility according to the principles of your profession.

It is not too late for you, in your coming days and weeks in court, to honour the pledge you made and to uphold the international commitments that Belarus has made to human rights. It is not too late for you to uphold the pledge that you made to the Belarusian people. It is not too late for you to treat your fellow Belarusians in the same way that you would wish to be treated in a court of law: with impartiality, with transparency, with respect for due process and procedure, with honesty and with justice."

The organisations who have signed this letter are:

Libereco Germany
(Germany)

Libereco Switzerland
(Switzerland)

Ice & Fire Theatre
(UK)

Index on Censorship (UK)

Foundation Max van der
Stoel
(The Netherlands)

Lawyers for Lawyers
(The Netherlands)

European Exchange
(Germany)

Italian Federation for Human
Rights
(Italy)

Article 19 Europe
(UK)



ACAT Belgium
(Belgium)

Norwegian Helsinki
Committee
(Norway)

Campax
(Switzerland)

MARA – Belarusians in
Nederland
(The Netherlands)

ACAT Switzerland
(Switzerland)

Gruppe für eine Schweiz
ohne Armee
(Switzerland)

We Remember
(The Netherlands)

Netherlands Helsinki
Committee
(The Netherlands)

Barys Zvozkau Belarusian
Human Rights House
(Lithuania)

Ligue Algérienne pour la
Défense des Droits de
l'Homme
(Algeria)

Östgruppen (Swedish
initiative for democracy and
human rights)
(Sweden)

Photographs that can be used in publicity







Letter to Belarusian Judges

Dear < judge name >

We are writing on behalf of our organisations, all of which are committed to promoting and defending the universal human rights that we all hold so dearly.

We are sure that you are aware that the Republic of Belarus is a signatory to the UN's "Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment" and the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights". As a Belarusian Judge you solemnly swore that, "before the people of the Republic of Belarus to honestly and conscientiously fulfill my duties, to administer justice, obeying only the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, to be impartial and fair, as the duty of a judge commands me."

We are, therefore, saddened to see that, since 2020 in particular, these principles and standards have not been upheld in Belarus. We are writing to you, and all other judges in Belarus who are involved in trials against your fellow Belarusians. We want to remind you that the world is aware of the abuses of justice and freedom and human rights that you participate in. We are sure that you are aware that organisations ranging from the Nobel Committee to the United Nations have commented on the work of you and your peers.

You are in a position of authority and responsibility so we, all of the undersigned, ask that you exercise that authority and responsibility according to the principles of your profession.

It is not too late for you, in your coming days and weeks in court, to honour the pledge you made and to uphold the international commitments that Belarus has made to human rights. It is not too late for you to uphold the pledge that you made to the Belarusian people. It is not too late for you to treat your fellow Belarusians in the same way that you would wish to be treated in a court of law: with impartiality, with transparency, with respect for due process and procedure, with honesty and with justice.

Yours sincerely,



Libereco Germany

Marco Fieber
(Executive Director)

Либереко Германия

Марко Файбер
(Исполнительный директор)

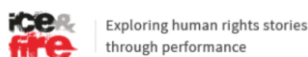


Libereco Switzerland

Lars Büniger
(President)

Либереко Швейцария

Ларс Бюнгер
(президент)



Ice and Fire Theatre

Christine Bacon

Театр Лед и Огонь

Кристин Бейкон



Index on Censorship

Jessica Ni Mhainin

Индекс на Цензуру

Джэссика Ни Мхейнин



Foundation Max van der Stoel

Emiel Bongaerts
(Project manager Eastern Europe)

Фонд Макса ван дер Стоель

Эмиль Бонгаертс
(руководитель проекта по Восточной Европе)

LAWYERS FOR LAWYERS

Lawyers for Lawyers

Irma van den Berg

Юристы для Юристов

Ирма ван дёр Берг

Europäischer Austausch
European Exchange

**European Exchange /
Europäischer Austausch gGmbH**
Европейский Обмен

Stefanie Schiffer
(Founder and Director)
Стефани Шиффер
(Основатель и Директор)

FIDU - Federazione Italiana Diritti Umani  ETS
Italian Federation for Human Rights

Italian Federation for Human Rights (FIDU)

Eleonora Mongelli
(Vice President)

Итальянская Федерация по Правам Человека

Элеонора Монджелли
(Вице Президент)

 **ÖSTGRUPPEN**

Östgruppen (Swedish initiative for democracy and human rights)

Paulina Kluge

Восточная Группа (шведская инициатива по демократии и правам человека)

Паулина Клуге

 **الرابطة LADDH**

LADDH - Ligue Algérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme

Vice President

Алжирская Лига по защите Прав Человека

Вице президент



ARTICLE 19 Europe

Joanna Szymanska

Статья 19 Европа

Джоанна Шиманска



Belarusian
Human Rights
House

**Barys Zvozkau
Belarusian Human
Rights House**

Vasil Sankovic

**Беларуский Дом Прав
Человека Бориса
Звозскова**

Василь Санкович



**Netherlands Helsinki
Committee**

Kirsten Meijer

**Нидерландский
Хельсинский Комитет**

Кирстен Майер



ACAT Belgium

Cécile Auriol
(Coordinator)

**Ассоциация Христиан
по Прекращению
Пыток**

Сесиль Ауриол
(координатор)



Norwegian Helsinki
Committee

**Norwegian Helsinki
Committee**

Berit Lindeman
(Secretary General)

**Норвежский
Хельсинский Комитет**

Берит Линдеман
(Генеральный Секретарь)

**MARA - Belarusians in
Nederland**

The Chairman

**МАРА – Объединение
Беларусов
Нидерландов**

Председатель

We Remember

Valeriya Krasovskaya

Мы Помним

Валерия Красовская



Campax

Andreas Freimüller

Кампакс

Андреас Фраймюллер



ACAT-Switzerland

Bettina Ryser
(Secretary General)

**Ассоциация Христиан
по Прекращению
Пыток - Швейцария**

Беттина Райсер
(Генеральный Секретарь)



**Gruppe für eine
Schweiz ohne Armee
Группа за Швейцарию
без Армии**

Anja Gada
(Political Secretary)
Аня Гада
(Политический Секретарь)