



STATEMENT

Standing with Belarusian Journalists Against Repression

by

Ms Małgorzata GOSIEWSKA, Chair, on behalf of the Bureau of the EP Delegation for Relations with Belarus

Mr Tomas TOBÉ, first Vice-Chair and Michał KOBOSKO, second Vice-Chair

Free and independent journalism is the backbone of every democratic society. When authoritarian regimes attempt to suppress the truth, it is always journalists who are the first to be silenced, imprisoned, or forced into exile. Yet their voices can never be fully extinguished. The truth always finds a way to be heard.

Belarus today represents one of the harshest environments for media freedom in the world. According to the 2025 World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders, Belarus ranks 166th out of 180 countries. This alarming position reflects a system in which censorship, intimidation, and arbitrary arrests have become daily realities for those who dare to report independently.

In 2025, 37 Belarusian journalists like Mr Andrzej Poczobut and others remain unjustly behind bars, serving sentences simply for carrying out their profession. At the same time, 39 media organisations have been labelled “extremist formations,” in a cynical attempt to criminalise independent reporting and cut society off from access to reliable information. Almost all national socio-political publications have been forced out of Belarus under the weight of repression and criminal prosecution. More than 30 outlets now operate from abroad.

Despite exile and displacement, the vast majority of these independent media have survived and continue their work, ensuring that the Belarusian people—and the world—still have access to truth and facts.

We stand in unwavering solidarity with the Belarusian journalists who continue to resist repression, often at great personal risk. Their courage embodies the values of freedom, dignity, and democracy. We call for the immediate release of all journalists and media workers unjustly imprisoned. We urge the Belarusian authorities to end the criminalisation of journalism and to cease the harassment of journalists, including those working in exile and their families who remain in Belarus.

We call on the Commission to continue supporting both independent Belarusian media in forced emigration as well as journalists — victims of repression, and expand this support, taking into account the restrictions on assistance programs.

The voices of Belarusian journalists must not be silenced. Supporting them means defending the principles of free expression and democracy everywhere.

Жыве Беларусь! Long live Belarus!

For further information contact:

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List of Belarusian journalists currently in jail:

Katsiaryna Bakhvalava (Andreyeva)

Ihar Losik

Andrei Aliaksandrau

Dzianis Ivashyn

Andrzej Poczobut

Maryna Zolatava

Liudmila Chekina

Valeryia Kastsiiuhova

Dzmitry Navazhylau

Iryna Slaunikava

Siarhei Satsuk

Kanstantsin Zalatykh

Pavel Mazheika

Yauhen Merkis

Andrei Famin

Larysa Shchyrakova

Pavel Padabed

Viachaslau Lazarau

Aliaksandr Mantsevich

Ales Sabaleuski

Aliaksandr Ihnatsiuk

Yauhen Hlushkou

Ales Marchanka

Volha Radzivonava

Anton Kazelski

Alena Tsimashchuk

Daniil Palianski

Yauhen Nikalayevich

Ihar Iliyash

Siarhei Chabotska

Workers of the Intex-press editorial office
Aleh Supruniuk

Palina Pitkevich*

* Source: [BAJ and Spring96](#)