



Resolution
of the Conference of the National Platform
of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership
"National Platform: 2012 - new reality in the old conditions"
Minsk, 29-30 June 2012

Anent the release of political prisoners

We, participants of the Conference of the National Platform of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership, express our deep concern and protest concerning the presence in places of deprivation of freedom of our fellow citizens - political and civil activists, as well as the absence of any possibility of their release according to the Law "About Amnesty" accepted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus.

For Belarusian civil society, it is obvious that

Mikałaj Aŭtuchovič, convicted, part 3 of Article 295 of the Criminal Code (CC),
Mikałaj Statkievič, convicted, part 1 of Article 293 of the CC,
Pavieł Sieviaryniec, convicted, part 1 of Article 342 of the CC,
Žmicier Daškievič, convicted, part 2 of Article 339 of the CC,
Eduard Łobaŭ, convicted, part 3 of Article 339 of the CC,
Siarhiej Kavalenka, convicted, part 1 of Article 339 of the CC,
Aleś Bialacki, convicted, part 2 of Article 243 of the CC,
Mikałaj Dziadok, convicted, part 2 of Article 339 of the CC,
Ihar Alinievič, convicted, part 2 of Article 339 of the CC, p. 2 and p. 3 of Article 218 of the CC,
Alaksandr Franckievič, convicted, part 2 of Article 351 of the CC,
Jaŭhien Vaškovič, convicted, part 2 of Article 339 of the CC and part 3 of Article 218 of the CC,
Arciom Prakopienka, convicted, part 2 of Article 339 of the CC and part 3 of Article 218 of the CC,
Pavieł Syramalotaŭ, convicted, part 2 of Article 339 of the CC and part 3 of Article 218 of the CC,

are deprived of freedom for their public work and political beliefs, are convicted illegally and illegally pressurized by the administrations of prisons. These facts are recognized both inside the country and at the international level, which has been repeatedly marked in statements of Belarusian human rights defenders, authoritative international organizations, and official structures of the European Union.

We also express our concern in connection with the unreasonably cruel measures of detention and punishment in **Alaksandr Małčanaŭ's** case, where it is also possible to see political grounds.

We consider **Andrzej Poczobut's** arrest on June, 21st, 2012, and a new criminal case as for part 2 of Article 367 of the CC (slander in relation to the president of the Republic of Belarus), to be another example of pressure upon the independent mass media and civil society.

Belarusian civil society is compelled once again to urge the Belarusian authorities to realize the impropriety of the chosen strategy, which keeps worsening the crisis in the country and preserves the problems, instead of solving them. The presence of political prisoners makes it impossible to have effective international cooperation with Belarus, which negatively affects the development of the country and life of its citizens. Such a state practice is senseless and short-sighted.

Participants of the Conference of the National Platform underline that civil society is interested in the joint solution of difficult tasks and overcoming of challenges on the way of turning Belarus into a modern, democratic, and lawful state. We urge the Belarusian authorities to get rid of the practice of

pressure upon activists of civil society of the country and to show their aspiration to execute their obligations in the questions of providing civil and political rights, including the right on freedom of political views and participation in public and political processes.

We again urge the authorities of Belarus to refuse the confrontation strategy, to release and rehabilitate political prisoners, and to stop prosecution of citizens of our country for their political beliefs. We address to all Belarusian citizens to express their solidarity with the civil society activists who are illegally convicted for their public and political activity.