Mattias Tesfaye Udlændinge- og integrationsminister Att.: medlemmer af Udlængige- og integrations udvalget

HENVENDELSE OM LOV OM MIDLERTIDIG OPHOLDSTILLADELSE TIL BELARUSERE, DER ER FORDREVET FRA UKRAINE

Vi har læst <u>i artiklen i Jyllands-Posten fra d. 5.03.2022</u>, skrevet af præsident for de europæiske journalister Mogens Blicher Bjerregård, at "flygtningene fra Belarus kan komme ind ad den samme åbne dør – også uden visum." til Danmark.

Vi kan desværre ikke finde en formulering om Belarus i Forslag til Lov om midlertidig opholdstilladelse til personer, der er fordrevet fra Ukraine som skal behandles i Folketinget i morgen og i overmorgen.

For os som herboende belarusere er det vigtigt at være sikre på at belarusiske statsborger som flygtede fra autoritær regime i Belarus til Ukraine efter 2020 ikke bliver sendt tilbage til Belarus hvor de er garanteret op til 25 år i fængsel eller henrettelse. Belarus er det eneste land i Europa som har dødsstraf, som bliver brugt regelmæssigt og i hemmelighed, dvs. uden familie bliver informeret.

Sammen med vores partnerorganisationer i andre lande har vi skrevet et <u>Brev til internationale samfund</u> med anmodning om at beskytte belarusere på flugt til Ukraine fra Lukasjenka's regime. En lang liste af belarusiske diasporaer har støttet vores initiativ.

Det er vigtigt at understrege at Belarus er de facto okkuperet af Rusland med massiv russiske militære tilstedeværelse på sit jord og befolkning som befinder sig som en gidsel lukket af Lukasjenka inde fra. Faktum er at takket økonomisk, politisk og militært støtte fra Rusland lykkedes det Lukasjenka at sende >40.000 tusind mennesker i fængsel, mens >1000 fil lange straffer op til 20 år efter valget i 2020.

Vi håber at I ville tage stilling til denne problematik og ville støtte prodemokratiske belarusere som kæmper for de samme fælles værdier og befinder sig på siden med ukrainerne og hele demokratisk verden.



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14 Marts 2022

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Open letter from the Belarusian diaspora to the international community

24th February has dramatically changed the lives of millions of people. Russia's attack on Ukraine performed with the support of the Belarusian dictator is a world catastrophe, threatening the international order and democracy.

We, the Belarusian diaspora, stand united against Russian aggression towards Ukraine and the whole democratic world. We support the Ukrainians' heroic fight for their country and for their freedom. If they and the world would like to see an example of their lives in the future under Putin's rule, it is already visible in Belarus under the Russian puppet regime of Lukashenka: Europe's largest prison camp.

In August 2020 Belarusians rose up peacefully against the 26 years of authoritarian rule by the Russian puppet regime of Lukashenka after the rigged presidential elections. Across the country, more than 750,000 people (out of 9.3m population) were involved in those peaceful protests. Unfortunately, the protesters met with overwhelming odds and were brutally suppressed by armed police and military with Russian backing. More than 40,000 protesters were arrested and imprisoned, all of whom suffered torture, many were raped and even murdered; over a thousand are still in prison with long sentences. In addition to the direct attacks on the protesters, the regime issued threats to their families, which included the confiscation of children. There followed over 100,000 job losses for political reasons and an estimated 300,000 fled the country, many hurriedly abandoning everything including documents and all means of support. Of those who left Belarus, over 10,000 remained in Ukraine.

In spite of living under the terror of Lukashenka regime and constant government propaganda and the absence of any free, independent media, Belarusian people still do not support Putin's War in Ukraine. According to Chatham House, fewer than 3% of the urban population (~79.48% of the total) support Belarusian involvement in the Russian attack against Ukraine; over 800 people have been arrested for anti-war protest. Despite the risk, Belarusians continue to resist through sabotaging the railways in order to slow down the advance of the Russian military to Ukraine.

The Belarusian diaspora across the World are working together with the Ukrainians and assisting in the war effort. We collect money, clothes, personal protective equipment, and take part in the demonstrations to support Ukraine. There is a special Belarusian military division, consisting of several hundreds of volunteers protecting Kyiv.

However, numerous cases of discrimination against Belarusians in the EU countries have been reported: Belarusians get fired from their jobs, face difficulties in finding apartments, their cars get vandalized and many have faced hatred on social media. We would like to make it clear that the common enemy and threat to democracy sits in the Kremlin, while the Belarusian population has become a hostage of Russian aggressive foreign policy supported by Lukashenka who seeks to hold power by any means.

Lukashenka and his collaborators must and will receive punishment for the crimes together with Putin.



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In regard to that, we, Belarusians of the world, urge the international community:

- 1) To treat Belarusians who fled the war in Ukraine, possess any kind of residence permit, as eligible for receiving protection in all EU countries, at least the Belarusians who fled Lukashenka regime since August 2020, as they will risk being returned to Belarus by the Russian occupational forces and prosecuted.
- 2) Prevent discrimination of democratic Belarusians by expressing support and publicly drawing lines between Lukashenka's regime and Belarusians.

Signed by:

Belarusians of Sweden

Belarusians of Denmark

Belarusians of Norway

Belarusians of Finland

Belarusian community in the United Kingdom "Nadzeya"

People's Embassy of Belarus in the United Kingdom

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Belarusisk forening i Norge RAZAM

Professional Union of Belarusians in Britain (PUBB)

Belarusians of Czechia

Belarusians of Luxembourg

Belarusians of Savoies regions in France

Belarusians of Ireland

Belarusians of Ukraine

Belarusians of Germany

Belarusian jews of Israel

Belarusians of Japan

People's Embassy of Belarus in Lithuania

Belarusian Solidarity Union, Wrocław, Poland

Belarusians of Montenegro

Belarusians of Austria

Foundation Tutaka, Poland

supolka bel wro

Belarusians of Lithuania

Belarusians of San Francisco (Belarus SF)

Belarusians of Poland

Embajada Popular de Belarús en España

People's Embassy of Belarus in Slovenia

Belarusians of Slovenia

Belarusian Cultural Society of South Australia

Belarusians of Belgium



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