



Resolution against human rights violations and persecutions of democratic youth organisations in Belarus

Adopted 28-29 April 2006

THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM,

CONDEMNS the current situation of persistent human right violations in Belarus by the Belarusian Government committed before, during and after the presidential elections in the country,

Is SHOCKED that the Belarusian Government continuously ignores numerous appeals made by the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Parliament, Human Rights Watch, the International League of Human Rights and others to cease human rights violations immediately,

DEMANDS the Government of Belarus to stop politically motivated arrests and detentions of independent journalists, opposition candidates and their supporters and human rights defenders, as well as the constant prosecution of constitutional rights of young people to freedom of association, freedom of choice and self-definition that takes place in Belarus on a regular basis.

SUPPORTS and UNDERSCORES its objection to the politically driven decision by the Supreme Court of Belarus to liquidate the European Youth Forum Member Organisation, *the Belarusian Union of Youth and Children's Public Association (RADA)*; the only democratically elected youth-led platform of youth organisations in Belarus, reflecting a European model and structure.

SHARES the concern of all youth and students across Europe on this direct attack on the fundamentals of democracy that is being demonstrated through violations of constitutional rights of young people to freedom of associations, freedom of choice and self-definition that are taking place in Belarus on a regular basis, and offers the solidarity of its member organisations.

Taking into consideration that members of RADA who actively took part in the life of the Belarusian society prior to and after the elections have been imprisoned (altogether there were about 500 young people arrested);

Underlining that international contacts of Belarusian youth (student exchanges, possibility to implement projects, or travel abroad freely) have been bounded;

In connection to the fact that within the last time there exists no opportunity for young people to receive independent information (newspapers are closed, internet resources are not available);

Realising that an ideological adaptation of young people takes place on a regular basis in schools and universities;

Facing the fact that the Government is creating youth organisations and umbrella structures for the purpose of supporting and promoting the Lukashenko regime;

Bearing in mind that BUYCPA 'RADA', as the only structure that in its actions uses democratic principles and follows the European model of youth policy, is taking a responsibility to design and realise the Alternative Youth Policy in Belarus¹;

Considering that RADA is its full member, and the only recognised partner in Belarus, the European Youth Forum undertakes the responsibility to:

Continue lobby and awareness-raising actions towards the EU, encourage meetings of RADA's representatives with the representatives of EU bodies responsible for youth work and especially making decisions related to the Belarus situation;

Strengthen lobby and awareness-raising actions towards the UN and its relevant agencies to develop and implement effective programmes for young people and children of the Republic of Belarus;

Call upon member-NYCs to request from their governments to promote cooperation with and support youth NGOs in Belarus, as well as to allocate resources for the participation of RADA in processes, programmes and campaigns carried out in Europe;

Call for the facilitation of a visa regime for young people and activists of Belarusian NGOs;

Initiate the process of creating a foundation to support democratic youth NGOs in Belarus.

¹ Alternative Youth Policy is work and activities of organisations and initiatives of young individuals who :

- are ready to proclaim openly that they disagree with the existing State youth policy ;
- share the values and promote the European model of youth policy ;
- work in accordance with the democratic principles and values of civil society ;
- act on the basis of the fact that youth policy should be designed and implemented by the young people themselves.