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Dear representatives of the Belarusian authorities,

Reportedly since 3 March more than 1100 protesters, journalists and opposition activists were detained across Belarus for participating in peaceful protests demanding the cancellation of Presidential Decree No. 3, which imposes a tax on the unemployed persons in Belarus.

At least 226 people have been sentenced to 2-25 days of administrative arrest and at least 159 have to pay fines. Many of them are still serving their prison terms.

I urge you to release all detained politicians, journalists and peaceful protesters immediately and unconditionally.

The imprisonment of peaceful protesters and the persecution of dissidents are strong violations of human rights, the compliance of which Belarus is obligated to guarantee according to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

I would like to remind you of the international obligations of Belarus and urge you to ensure the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association to all people in Belarus.

I urge you to stop the persecution, harassment and intimidation of dissidents immediately!

Yours sincerely,