Mr Aliaksandr Ganevich

Botschaft der Republik Belarus

Quartierweg 6

3074 Muri

Dear Mr Ambassador Ganevich

Since 19 September 2020, Natallia Hersche, a Swiss citizen, has been in prison in Belarus - solely for exercising her human right to freedom of assembly and expression.

Her arrest at a peaceful rally was arbitrary and carried out with violence by hooded men. The trial of Natallia Hersche violated international rule of law principles and resulted in a politically motivated sentence of 2 years and 6 months in prison. Belarusian and international human rights organisations consider Natallia Hersche a political prisoner.

The imprisonment of political prisoners and the persecution of political dissidents are serious violations of human rights. Belarus is as a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and for that reason, has to adhere to human rights.

I would like to remind you of these international obligations of your country and call you to ensure that the rights to freedom of expression and assembly are guaranteed to all people in Belarus.

Ahead of Natallia Hersche's trial in the court of appeal, which is scheduled to take place on 16 February 2021, I call on the Belarusian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Natallia Hersche and all other political prisoners in Belarus.

Yours sincerely