



The Board of Directors of the Baltic American Freedom League at an emergency meeting on August 23, 2020 and monthly meeting on September 16, 2020, understanding the continuing insidious, ruthless, violent and deceptive behavior of President Lukashenko of Belarus and the fraudulent election on August 9, 2020, and understanding the critical impact on the people of Belarus, guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, unanimously adopted the following resolution to be forwarded to our members, members of Congress and the President of the United States of America.

RESOLUTION TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Whereas the government of Belarus is an authoritarian state in which elections are openly rigged and civil liberties are curtailed;

Whereas the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights under article 25 (b) grants every citizen the right to vote and to be elected, guaranteeing free expression of the will of the electors;

Whereas Lukashenko prior to the August 9, 2020 Presidential elections imprisoned many political activists, opposition party leaders and his opponent, Siarhei Tsikhanouski;

Whereas the Human Rights Watch reported that the Belarus authorities arrested at least 1,100 people in May and June for gathering peacefully to protest or support opposition candidates;

Whereas Amnesty International denounced the government's action, demanding the Belarus government release all of the president's opponents who have been arbitrarily detained prior to the election;

Whereas President Alexander Lukashenko, with 80 percent of the vote, claimed victory for his sixth consecutive term;

Whereas credible reports raised allegations that the Presidential elections of August 9, 2020 were fraudulent and that human and civil rights were violated;

Whereas the election was met with mass peaceful protest marches and strikes lasting for weeks, and thousands of people took to the streets in Minsk and other cities as well, protesting against authoritarian rule, decrying that the election was fraudulent and demanding a new election;

Whereas the government responded to the protests with violence and repression and Lukashenko's notorious heavily armed security services rounded up more than 10,000 people, including 19 correspondents to squash the protests;

Whereas Lukashenko ordered a criminal probe into the opposition's attempt to "seize power";

Whereas Lushenko refused an offer from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to help resolve the political crisis in Belarus, but met with President Putin instead;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution submitted by the European Union to launch an investigation of alleged rights violations of protesters calling for Lukashenko's resignation;

Whereas the members of the European Parliament "staunchly" condemned the mass arrests and ongoing violent crackdown on peaceful protesters, strike leaders and journalists in the country, with reports and torture emerging from Belarusian detention centers and jails;

Whereas the members of the European Parliament passed a resolution to reject the official result of Belarus' "so-called presidential election", the resolution stating that the vote was conducted in a "flagrant violation of all internationally recognized standards";

Whereas the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a human rights and security body, has raised concerns about the accuracy of the election results, while the European Union and 29 European countries issued statements that the elections were "not free and fair";

Whereas the Human Rights Watch called on the Human Rights Council and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to "promptly open inquiries" in the post election crackdown in Belarus;

Whereas a representative of the Belarus government, backed by Russia, China and Venezuela, spoke at the UN Human Rights Council debating the alleged violations by Belarus authorities;

Whereas the Belarus government exercises unrestricted control over mainstream media and the law secures a state monopoly over information about political, social and economic affairs providing that libel is both a civil and criminal offense, and the criminal code contains provisions protect the "honor and dignity of high ranking officials";

Whereas the U.S. Senate prior to the Presidential elections of August 9, 2020 passed Senator Richard Durbin's resolution S.Res.658 calling for free, fair and transparent and unimpeded participation of all candidates;

Whereas the Belarus government prevented deployment of the Organization on Security and Cooperation In Europe election observers;

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved

(1) That the Belarus government immediately cease using force against peaceful demonstrators and candidates, stop arbitrary arrests and detentions on political grounds and release all political prisoners, journalists, human rights defenders, members of strike committees, students and those detained prior to the election, during and after the presidential election for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(2) To impose international pressure to encourage President Lukashenko to hold new free and fair elections meeting international and United Nations standards; and

(3) That sanctions be imposed and include freezing of all financial assets belonging to Lukashenko, any members of his family, and any affiliated business and/or financial institutions directly or indirectly associated with him or his family.

**Submitted by
Baltic American Freedom League Board of Directors
Baltic American Freedom League President, Conrad Mazeika**