

The Ambassadors of the Republic of Belarus

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in
the Republic of Estonia
Mr. Vyacheslav Kachanov, Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in
the Federal Republic of Germany
Mr. Denis Sidorenko, Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in
the Republic of Lithuania
H.E. Mr. Valery Baranovsky, Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in
the Russian Federation
Mr. Vladimir Ilyich Semashko, Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in
the Republic of Finland
Mr. Aleksei Samosuev, Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in
the Republic of Latvia
Ms. Natalya Sadovskaya, Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in
the Republic of Poland
Mr. Władimir Czuszew, Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in
the Kingdom of Sweden
Mr. Dmitry Mironchik, Ambassador

The Ambassadors to the Republic of Belarus

Embassy of the Republic of Estonia in
the Republic of Belarus
Ms. Merike Kokajev, Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in
the Republic of Belarus
H.E. Einars Semanis, Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Poland in
the Republic of Belarus
Mr. Artur Michalski, Ambassador

Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden in
the Republic of Belarus
Ms. Christina Johannesson, Ambassador

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in
the Republic of Belarus
Mr. Manfred Huterer, Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in
the Republic of Belarus
Mr. Andrius Pulokas, Ambassador

Embassy of the Russian Federation in
the Republic of Belarus
Mr. Alexander Surikov, Ambassador

The trade union confederations in the Baltic Sea Region stand in solidarity with the people of Belarus

During its meeting on 7 October the Baltic Sea Trade Union Network (BASTUN) discussed the situation in Belarus and the concerns of its people. As we see it the situation, since the results for the elections on 9 August 2020 were announced, has become unacceptable.

Since the elections, there has been daily protests for more than sixty days. These protests were launched as the fraudulent election results were published, despite clear evidence to the contrary. Women's marches on Saturday and massive rallies taking place every Sunday. These are peaceful protests and civil society gains in force, only showing solidarity by the means of human chains and pamphlets, yet 15 000 people have been detained in total since the start of the protests. We are especially worried by the persecution, and detention of trade unionists as a means of suppression.

We, the Trade Unions in the BASTUN demand the following of the Belarus regime:

- The immediate release of all political prisoners and peaceful protesters.
- The stop of all violence, persecution and arrests of trade unionists, activists, and peaceful protesters.
- Respect the right to strike.
- Initiate fair re-elections under supervision trusted by all parties as well as international observers and open discussions with the opposition, including trade unions.
- Open and secure communications, internet connections and freedom of the press and free movement within and outside the country.

“People of Belarus have chosen a democratic path and free trade unions of the country has joined their efforts to ensure a crucial political change. Respect for fundamental rights, like trade union rights, are essential for a strong and successful country to develop. The right to strike is enshrined in international law and nobody can take it away or – even worse – to arrest those who are rightfully demanding or implementing it“– states Inga Ruginienė, the President of BASTUN.

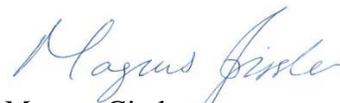
We stand in solidarity with the Belarusian free trade union movement in their fight for respect and human- and trade union rights, as well as the freedom of the country. The independent unions of Belarus are the largest democratic and independent civil society movement.

The Baltic Sea Trade Union Network consists of National trade union confederations from Denmark (FH), Estonia (EAKL, TALO), Finland (SAK, STTK), Germany (DGB), Latvia (LBAS), Lithuania (LPSK, LPS “Solidarumas”), Norway (LO, Unio, YS), Poland (NZZ Solidarnosc, OPZZ, FZZ), Russia (FNPR, KTR), and Sweden (LO, TCO, Saco) and represents more than 9 million organised workers in the region.

In Stockholm and Vilnius,



Inga Ruginienė
President of BASTUN and LPSK Lithuania



Magnus Gissler
General Secretary of NFS