



Dear members of the UN Human Rights Council, the delegation of the Republic of Belarus, colleagues; it's a pleasure to greet you all today!

My name is Lavon Marozau, I am international lawyer, international secretary of Belarusian National Youth Council 'RADA' and one of the authors of the first Belarusian alternative report on youth rights to the UN Human Rights Council.

“RADA” is nonprofit and nonpartisan umbrella organization and in our report we reflect only facts that are sometimes ignored by the Government of Belarus. The Government that mastered diplomatic language of empty answers to the unwanted questions and strategy of not solving problems.

And for them we want to remind that human rights are not an internal matter of any country, including Belarus.

“RADA” was unlawfully deprived of official registration in 2006 but till day represents Belarusian youth both on national and international levels. We operate on principles of democracy and respect for human rights and freedoms.

We, the Belarusian youth, believe that our opinion matters and we try our best to be heard on national and international levels.

Dear colleagues, please remember next three points that Belarusian youth finds the most important to report:

- **Capital punishment or Death penalty.** More than half of executed people in Belarus since 1991 were from 18 to 31 year old - the official age of youth. Following the results of the previous universal periodic review in 2015, 25 countries recommended a moratorium on execution in Belarus. Below you can see the list and recommendation numbers
  - “RADA” strongly recommends that the Republic of Belarus immediately declare a moratorium on death penalty execution in Belarus and stop killing youth on behalf of the name of the state.
- **Mass arrests of young people and torture in prisons.** At the time of this report, in Belarus peaceful assemblies of solidarity with political prisoners and for holding fair presidential elections on 2020 are ongoing. Since the beginning of the presidential election campaign, about 600 people have

been found guilty for administrative code violations for participating in peaceful assemblies, including our members organizations.

- RADA” urges the Republic of Belarus to stop the detention of participants of peaceful assemblies, release political prisoners and prevent use of torture in prisons and in temporary detention facilities by police and other official forces.
- **Dialogue with civil society and democratic youth organizations.** Authorities of the Republic of Belarus deprived of registration Belarusian National Youth Council “RADA” in 2006 and now cooperate on youth policy issues only with ideological allies among youth organizations and with GoNGO. This interaction mechanism is not democratic and effective.

“RADA” calls upon the Republic of Belarus to start cooperation with all youth organizations and initiatives in Belarus, including “RADA” in all questions and issues related to the youth and youth rights.

As a conclusion I want to highlight that Belarusian youth puts a lot of efforts to point on other important issues in full version of the report. RADA will be happy to contribute to the process of their implementation.

At the time of recording this video, we can't know how the presidential elections in Belarus will end. We can't know what our country will be like the day you watch this appeal. We can only hope that we will not become political prisoners ourselves.

The events of the summer 2020 in Belarus demonstrate the official authorities' total disregard not only for us, but also for each of you, your opinion and your work.

Human rights need to be protected, not just talked about it!

Thank you!