



[VSS|UNES|USU]

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VSS | Verband der Schweizer Studierendenschaften  
UNES | Union des Etudiant-e-s de Suisse  
USU | Unione Svizzera degli e delle Universitari-e

His Excellency  
Aliaksandr Ganevich  
Ambassador of the Republic  
of Belarus  
Quartierweg 6  
3074 Muri bei Bern.

Bern, 26 November 2020

## **Freedom of expression for Belarusian students**

Your Excellency,

With great concern, we have been following the political developments in Belarus after President Alexander Lukashenko's re-election. The government has reacted to peaceful demonstrations with force and growing violence. Innocent people are being arrested and imprisoned solely for having expressed their opinion. We, the Swiss Student Union (VSS|UNES|USU), demand that the human rights of people in Belarus is respected.

As a students' union, we are particularly sensitive to the hardships of our fellow students all over Europe and support each other through the network provided by the European Students' Union (ESU). We have been receiving first-hand reports from the Belarusian Students' Association (BSA) about the way students are experiencing the current unrest in Belarus. Universities, which should be the bulwarks of freedom of expression, are keeping silent under pressure from the government and are obstructing students in their freedom rights. Free thinking students have to fear being arrested every day on their way to university.

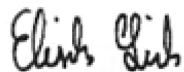
We stand in solidarity with Belarusian students and youth and in particular with the Belarusian Students' Association (BSA) and the Brotherhood of Organizers of Student Self-governance (BOSS). Therefore, we demand the following in their support:

- The immediate cessation of violent repression and imprisonment of demonstrators.
- Respect for human rights, in particular freedom of expression.
- The cessation of all hindrance of students' peaceful demonstration and expression.

We thank you for your attention and hope you will take our words into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

For the Commission for International and  
Solidarity Affairs



Elischa Link  
Presidency of the Commission

For the Executive Committee



Florent Aymon  
International officer