

Vienna, 17 September 2020

His Excellency
Mr. Andrei Dapkiunas
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE

Dear Ambassador Dapkiunas,

We thank you for the information that your delegation has provided to the OSCE Permanent Council before, during and after the Presidential elections on 9 August 2020. As you are aware, we have raised a number of concerns centering around credible reports of human rights violations and abuses during this period, including:

Intimidation and persecution of political activists, candidates, journalists, media actors, lawyers, labour activists and human rights defenders, as well as the detention of prospective candidates; election fraud; restrictions on access to information, including internet shutdowns; excessive use of force against peaceful protesters; arbitrary or unlawful arrests or detentions; beatings; sexual and gender based violence; abductions and enforced disappearances; torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and widespread impunity for all of the above.

Our view is that these reports reflect a particularly serious threat to the fulfilment of the provisions of the OSCE human dimension. We therefore invoke paragraph 12 of the 1991 Document of the Moscow meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the (then) CSCE in order to establish a fact finding mission of experts to examine the issues identified above.

In addition to establishing the facts and reporting on them, we encourage the mission of experts to give advice to the Republic of Belarus, to the OSCE, and to the international community, on possible solutions to the questions raised.

We kindly remind you that, in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Moscow Document, an expert mission, one member of which may be chosen by the Republic of Belarus, should be able to give an objective and unbiased report and recommendations on these issues. We look forward to working with you and your government in the coming days on arrangements for the mission.

CC: Katarzyna Gardapkhadze
First Deputy Director / Alternate to the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights



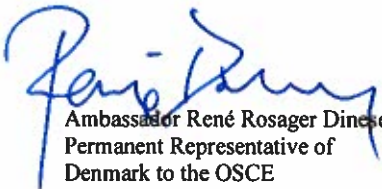
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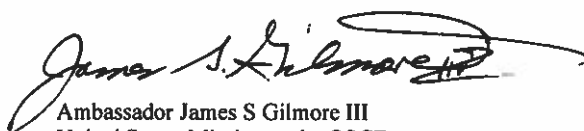
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