HUMAN RIGHTS IN BELARUS
During the second cycle of the UPR, the Government of Belarus received more than 20 recommendations calling for a moratorium and abolition of the death penalty, as well as the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. None of these recommendations was accepted. The Government accepted the recommendations on holding public campaigns in order to clarify the arguments in favor of the abolition of the death penalty and on considering the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia, Belgium).

**New developments**

- Belarus continues to practice the use of the death penalty. Since 2015, 17 death sentences have been imposed in Belarus. As for today, human rights defenders are aware of 15 sentences executed. The last execution in Belarus was on 17 of December 2019.
- A new parliamentary working group on the death penalty formed in the parliament. Interaction with human rights community representatives was episodic and random. The problem of abolition of the death penalty is not widely covered in the State media and is not a subject of a wide public debate.
Recommendations – Right To Life

- Join the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and abolish the death penalty.
- As an interim measure, establish a moratorium on executions as soon as possible until accession to the Second Optional Protocol.
- Prior to the abolition of the death penalty or introduction of a moratorium, amend the law to ensure that relatives of those sentenced to death have the opportunity to say goodbye to them and bury the bodies of those executed in accordance with the traditions of their families.
- Conduct an extensive media campaign on the use of the death penalty
Situation in Belarus – Freedom of peaceful assembly

- The Government did not accept the recommendations on brining the law on peaceful assembly in line with international standards on freedom of peaceful assembly and the abolition of the permission-based procedure of holding meetings.

- New developments
  - On July 17, 2018, the Law “On Mass Events” was amended to introduce notification procedure for holding static mass events (pickets, meetings) in places specially designated by local authorities.

- Generally, however, these changes have not resulted in any substantive progress in ensuring freedom of peaceful assembly and even worsened the situation. This is due to the adoption of Government Decree No. 49 of January 24, 2019 establishing tariffs for expenses to be covered by organizers of mass events.
Recommendations – Freedom of peaceful assembly

- Bring the legislation on mass events in line with international standards, including providing for notification-based principle for all meetings and making provision for a simplified procedure for spontaneous assemblies and counter-demonstrations.
- Ensure maximum facilitation of peaceful assemblies in places that are in conformity with the meeting’s purposes.
- Pursue consistent and transparent approaches based on threats and risks assessment when planning meetings and demonstrations.
- Waive the requirement for organizers of peaceful assembly, etc. to cover the expenses for maintenance of public order, medical care and cleaning.
- **Exclude single pickets from the scope of** Law on Mass Events.
During the previous cycle, two recommendations were made on the complete elimination of all forms of forced labour and the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights. The recommendations were not implemented.

- **New developments**
- A bill introduced by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus to the House of Representatives on November 29, 2019 proposed a number of amendments to the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On the procedure and conditions for assignment of citizens to medical and labor dispensaries and conditions of stay in them” No. 104-3 of January 4, 2010. Thus, the proposed bill introduces a simplified form of isolation in medical and labor dispensaries of so-called citizens leading an asocial lifestyle. For citizens sent to medical and labor dispensaries for a third or more time, an increased confinement period is established — up to two years. Two categories of medical and labor dispensaries are introduced, the isolation conditions in which will differ.
Recommendations – Forced Labour

- The State party should undertake a comprehensive review of the abovementioned legislation and all practices involving non-voluntary work, with a view to bringing such regulations into full compliance with the ICCPR, particularly articles 8 and 9.

- It should also implement the recommendations of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the recommendations of the ILO.
Thank you

From all the members of our coalition:

- A
- B
- C
- D