



Statement of Ireland

47th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Belarus

05 July 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

Ireland welcomes the Special Rapporteur and thanks her for her comprehensive report.

We share the concerns regarding the ongoing repression in Belarus. Despite numerous reports of human rights violations, perpetrators are permitted to act with impunity, while medical workers, journalists and lawyers are prosecuted simply for doing their jobs. Peaceful protestors and human rights defenders continue to be subjected to violence, harassment and intimidation. Perpetrators must be held accountable for their actions and Ireland welcomes investigations through the OHCHR mandated by this Council.

Ireland urges the Belarusian authorities to end the repression and to engage in a meaningful and inclusive national dialogue with the political opposition and civil society. The holding of genuinely free and fair elections with independent monitoring is essential. We maintain our call for the immediate, full and unconditional release of all those unjustly and arbitrarily detained.

Ireland regrets that Belarus continues to deny the Special Rapporteur access to the country in her official capacity. We call on Belarus to co-operate fully, to engage with her mandate and to implement her recommendations.

Special Rapporteur,

Ireland would be interested to hear your views regarding reports of ill-treatment in detention, including of children, and the effects on victims of such treatment.