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To all MEPs signatory to the letter regarding witnessing the trials of political prisoners in Belarus

Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

Thank you for your letter of 1 June in which you raise the importance of EU and Member States representatives attending court proceedings of civil activists and political prisoners in Belarus.

The EU condemns the level of repression that we are witnessing in Belarus, including the detainment of numerous innocent people fighting for their democratic freedoms and their lack of access to lawyers.

The European Union has reacted strongly to the falsified August 2020 Belarusian Presidential elections and the subsequent crackdown on the Belarusian people by the authorities. One of the pillars of action adopted is strengthening engagement with the Belarusian people and civil society. This includes funds made immediately available to the victims of violence. Additionally, the EU is in touch with lawyers of detained persons, including those of Mr Raman Pratasevich and Ms Sofia Sapega, through our Delegation in Minsk.

I would like to reassure you that the EU Delegation in Minsk puts in considerable efforts on ensuring access is granted to its staff and Member State representatives to as many court trials of political prisoners and human rights activists in Belarus as possible. Although EU Delegation staff and Member States representatives have attended over 40 cases, it is not always possible to gain access to all court proceedings.

The European Union stands by the people of Belarus and supports their democratic choice and fundamental freedoms. I respect and am thankful for your efforts in this regard thus far.

Yours faithfully,



Josep Borrell Fontelles