

AN OPEN ADDRESS TO LEADERS OF THE FREE WORLD

August 14, 2020

Dear Mr. President/Prime Minister and Esteemed Citizens!

On behalf of the Belarusian people, we call on the leaders of the free world to recognize Ms. Svetlana Tikhanovskaya as the winner of Belarus' August 9, 2020 presidential elections and as the new president of Belarus.

The Belarusian people have clearly demonstrated to the world their sovereign will in casting the majority vote in favour of Ms. Tikhahnovskaya and her program of freeing all political prisoners and holding new and free elections within the six-month period after her taking the office.

Belarusians in thousands and thousands took to the streets throughout their country in support of Ms. Tikhanovskaya before and after August 9, 2020. Independent exit polls confirm that the overwhelming majority voted for Ms. Tikhanovskaya.

In response, Mr. Lukashenko's dictatorial regime has falsified the election results and resorted to all-out brutality and repression. The regime terrorized Ms. Tikhanovskaya into leaving the country. Mr. Lukashenko has made it clear he will not shun any methods no matter how unlawful and bloody in order to cling on to power.

Belarus' Central Electoral Committee in charge of elections and its courts are not independent and are tools of the regime. Ms. Tikhanovskaya's initiative to have a peaceful transfer of power was bluntly rejected by the regime.

International recognition of Ms. Tikhanovskaya as the legitimate newly-elected President would be an important step in supporting the sovereign will of the Belarusian

people and an indication that the international community condemns the unlawful use of violence by Belarus' current dictatorial regime.

Belarusian lives matter!

Valery Tsepalo



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