

## **PETITION**

*To:*

The Belarusian President Aleksandr Loekasjenka  
and the government of the Republic of Belarus.

c/o H.E. Mrs. Elena Gritsenko, ambassador of the Republic of Belarus in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

*We*

Perspectief, youth of the ChristenUnie -party

JOVD, youth affiliated with the VVD-party

Jonge Democraten, youth of D66

CDJA, youth of the CDA-party

SGP youth organization

Rood, youth of SP

Jonge Socialisten, youth of PvdA

Dwars, youth of GroenLinks

*ascertain*

On December 19, the Republic of Belarus has faced Presidential elections. This scrutiny was carried in a tense atmosphere allowing for little freedom of speech and unfair electoral procedure.

On this background, we are deeply worried by the news that many opposition leaders underwent pressure and physical threats during the campaign and were beaten and captured immediately after the elections, by the Belarus' intelligence services.

Hundreds of opposition politicians, journalists and activists have been beaten up and arrested during mass rally at Independence Square in Minsk where at least 40,000 protesters gathered, denouncing the elections as fraudulent. After mock trials behind closed doors these protesters are condemned to fines and imprisonment. According to various sources, amongst demonstrators at Independence Square were provocateurs placed who deliberately mounted an attack on Government buildings to justify police' brutal intervention.

Taking into account multiple instances of physical injuries, arrests and disappearances of opposition leaders in Belarus, we would like to express our deep concern on the democratic level of the election process in Belarus.

*and request*

The Belarusian authorities for immediate and unconditional release of the arrested leaders.

Respect for all democratic norms and procedures.