

Generalstaatsanwalt  
Andrey Shved  
Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus  
Vul. Internatsianalnaya, 22  
220030 Minsk  
BELARUS

Kopie an:

BOTSCHAFT DER REPUBLIK BELARUS  
S. E. Herrn Denis Sidorenko  
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Sehr geehrter Herr Generalstaatsanwalt,

mit großer Sorge habe ich von der grundlosen Festnahme und Inhaftierung von Victoria Biran erfahren.

Bitte ergreifen Sie die nötigen Maßnahmen, damit Victoria Biran und alle anderen gewaltlosen politischen Gefangenen in Belarus umgehend und bedingungslos freigelassen werden.

Bitte führen Sie umgehend eine unabhängige, zielführende und unparteiische Untersuchung der willkürlichen Festnahme von Victoria Biran und des Prozesses gegen sie durch, in dem sie ein anonymer "Zeuge" belastete. Außerdem müssen alle weiteren Menschenrechtsverletzungen an Gefangenen in Belarus untersucht werden, einschließlich der Vorwürfe von Folter und anderen Misshandlungen. Stellen Sie alle Verantwortlichen in fairen Verfahren vor Gericht.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

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*Dear Prosecutor General,*

*I am deeply concerned about the arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights defender **Victoria Biran** under Article 23.34 of the Code of Administrative Offences ("Violation of the procedure for organising or holding mass events"). Victoria Biran was detained by masked riot police on her way to the Women's March in Minsk on 26 September and was likely targeted because she was carrying a rainbow flag. The police officer who later testified as a "witness" against Victoria Biran in court via a video link did not disclose his name and hid his face with a black mask. Although Victoria Biran has committed no offence and was only intending to exercise her rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, she was sentenced to 15 days of administrative detention. Victoria Biran is serving her sentence in the detention centre on Akrestina street, which has lately become synonymous with torture and other ill-treatment, including sexual violence, against detainees. Considering that Victoria Biran was likely targeted by police as an LGBT+ activist, I am concerned that she may be targeted with violence in detention.*

*Victoria Biran is a prisoner of conscience, deprived of their liberty solely for peacefully exercising their human rights, and her case is emblematic of thousands of persons in Belarus detained in recent weeks.*

*In the light of the above, I urge you to:*

- Ensure that Victoria Biran and all other prisoners of conscience in Belarus are released immediately and unconditionally;*
- Instigate a prompt, effective and impartial investigation into the circumstances of Victoria Biran's arbitrary arrest and trial with the use of an anonymous "witness", and into all reported human rights violations of detainees in Belarus, including torture and other ill-treatment, and ensure that all alleged perpetrators are brought to justice in fair trial proceedings.*

*Yours sincerely,*