



CRACKDOWN IN BELARUS

#STANDWITHBELARUS

In Belarus, tens of thousands of people have been peacefully protesting against the disputed presidential elections of August 2020. The government has retaliated with a brutal campaign of repression and violence, using heavy-handed tactics to disperse crowds and detaining more than 30,000 protesters to date. Once arrested, detainees are subject to physical and sexual violence and other torture; at least one person is known to have died in police custody. Yet not a single police officer has been charged in connection with these flagrant human rights violations. Alarmingly, children and young people have also been targeted for taking part in demonstrations, because of their parents' political views, or simply for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Amnesty International has documented multiple cases of minors being arrested, beaten and detained for extended periods. The state has also weaponised child custody laws to intimidate dissenters, by threatening to remove children from their families and place them in state care.

Aleh, 14

Aleh* was waiting for friends outside a shopping centre when he was arrested by riot police. He was beaten and his mother was forced to sign a report saying that he had taken part in an "unsanctioned" meeting in order to secure his release. His mother has lodged multiple complaints against the police, but each investigation request has been denied.

Ilya, 16

Ilya* was arrested while taking part in a peaceful demonstration on election day and beaten by the police. After his release, his school director and school social worker began to bully him, telling him that he would fail his exams and be unable to go to university if he continued to attend protests.

Mikita, 16

Mikita* was waiting for a friend in the main square in Minsk on August 10, as a demonstration was being dispersed. The next day he was arrested and charged with throwing a Molotov cocktail at the police. He has been held in pre-trial detention ever since, where he has been beaten and tortured, even being hospitalised at one point for his injuries.

*Names have been changed and some details omitted to protect the families from possible retaliation.

YOUR GIFT COULD PROVIDE A **LIFE-SAVING** RAPID RESPONSE FOR SOMEONE AT RISK IN BELARUS AND AROUND THE WORLD.

DONATE NOW.

action.amnesty.org.au/welcometotherescue



RESPONDING TO THREATS, HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION



OUR WORK ON THE GROUND

RESEARCH

Amnesty International has been gathering information and testimonies in order to bring global attention to the state-sponsored abuses taking place in Belarus.

We have published several reports detailing our findings, including reports on the government's targeting of children, women, older people and cultural figures. We have launched an online solidarity campaign which has seen **191,000 people from 144 countries** call for an end to police violence in Belarus, and provided submissions and recommendations to the **UN Human Rights Council**.

RESCUE

Behind the scenes, the Global Emergency Fund is available to provide rapid interventions in critical situations where lives are at risk – such as the circumstances arising in Belarus. To protect the individuals, children and families under threat, most of the emergency assistance we provide cannot be made public. But **our Global Emergency Fund team works around the clock** to provide urgent relocations, medical care, legal aid and other essential support.

With your help, we can continue to shine a light on abuses taking place in Belarus and around the world.

With your gift, we can provide emergency assistance to more people whose safety is at risk.

With your support, we can challenge injustice and stand up for our shared beliefs.



Opposition supporters attend a rally to protest against the Belarus presidential election results in Minsk. Photo by AFP via Getty Images

DEFEND THE DEFENDERS

DONATE TODAY

THE COST OF A RAPID RESPONSE

GLOBAL RELIEF FUND EXPENDITURE, 2019

REGION	Amount spent (\$AUD)	Number of people helped
Africa	568,188	342
Americas	759,371	2,475
Asia	265,107	158
ECA (Europe and Central Asia)	361,216	1,174
EECA (Eastern Europe and Central Asia)	311,295	305
MENA (Middle East and North Africa)	258,771	109
Pacific	7,085	101
TOTAL	2,531,040	4,664

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE RESCUE



\$80

can supply a personal alarm system for a home or office.



\$100

can fund a two week stay at a safe house.



\$200

can provide legal assistance for someone arbitrarily detained.



\$400

can get someone at risk of losing their lives out of the country quickly and safely.