

APPEAL NO 1

of the 30th National Congress of Delegates of NSZZ "Solidarność" on the release of leaders and members of the Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions (BKDP)

On 19 April 2022, our friends, over twenty leaders and members of the Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions, were detained in Belarus. Many of them have not been released to this day, including the BKDP Chairman Aliaksandr Yarashuk and Vice-Chairman Siarhei Antusevich. The detention is based on the alleged preparation of activities that seriously violate public order.

At the same time, nine employees of large state-owned enterprises have been in detention since September 2021. Most of them belong to the BKDP. They are facing sentences of several decades in prison. The charge is treason and creation of an extremist group, although they only organized aid for repressed workers and discussed scenarios for possible strikes at workplaces.

Lukashenka's atrocious regime unleashed a war against the independent and democratic trade union movement. Repressions and obstruction of trade union activity, known from the history of NSZZ "Solidarność", became commonplace. Criminal cases and arrests are constantly being initiated. All this is aimed at a complete destruction of free trade unions in Belarus.

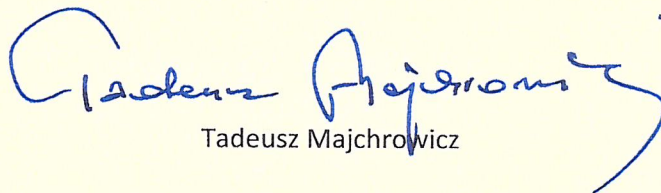
The Congress categorically condemns these actions. They constitute a brutal violation of fundamental human rights. The detention of the BKDP leaders and members is a sign of weakness of the illegal and discredited Belarusian government, which in response to the growing popular opposition to its political leaders is stepping up repression and violence. We emphasize our full support for the people of Belarus who demand basic democratic freedoms.

The National Congress of Delegates of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarność" expresses its solidarity with our friends from the BKDP and demands the immediate release of the leaders and members of the Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions. The union also demands the withdrawal of groundless charges against the detainees and unequivocally condemns the dictatorial regime's attack on fundamental rights concerning trade union activities.

Zakopane, 27 May 2022

National Congress of Delegates
of NSZZ "Solidarność"

Chairman of the Congress Presidium



Tadeusz Majchrowicz