Minister of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus CC: Embassy of Belarus in the United States Chargé d'Affaires Mr. Pavel Shidlovsky 1619 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20009 Email: <u>usa@mfa.gov.by</u>

Dear Minister,

I am calling on you to take all necessary steps to immediately release **Maryia Kalesnikava**, who has been arbitrarily arrested and prosecuted under trumped-up charges. Maryia has been sentenced to 11 years in prison simply for exercising her right to freedom of expression and association, speaking out against arbitrary arrests and abuses of the electoral process during the widely disputed presidential election in Belarus in 2020.

Furthermore, I demand that all necessary measures are taken to protect Maryia from torture and other ill-treatment, provide her with access to adequate healthcare, allow her contact with her lawyers and family, overturn her unjust conviction, and delete her name from the government's list of individuals involved in "terrorist activities".

Yours sincerely,