



Resolution on the abolition of death penalty measures in Belarus

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After World War II the International Community rethought the value of each human life and declared the right to life of every human being regardless of social status.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly Resolution 217 A) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages.

In 1971, a UN resolution was the first step towards the universal abolition of the death penalty. Later the goal of progressive restriction of capital offences (death penalty) was reiterated by the General Assembly in 1977 (Resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977), by the UN Commission on Human Rights in Resolution 1997/12 of 3 April 1997 and Resolution 1998/8 of 3 April 1998.

Belarus is a member of United Nations and is the last country in Europe and post-Soviet space that continues using death penalty towards its citizens every year.

Since 1994, in Belarus more than 300 people have been sentenced to death, the average age of the punished was 32 years. According to available statistics, about half of those punished were young people aged 18 to 31 years.

In Belarus, death penalty is carried out by shooting in the back of the head. Places of burial of the killed are unknown - this information is not even given to family members. Previously death certificates were crossed out, now they write "served in accordance with the sentence".

Young people from Belarus with all young people across Europe strongly oppose death penalty in Belarus. As free, democratic and European youth, we consider the death penalty to be the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, which should cease to exist.

The European Youth Forum and its member organisations:

Oppose to death penalty in Belarus in all cases without exception - regardless of who is accused, the nature or circumstances of the crime, guilt or innocence or method of execution;

Call on the President and Parliament of Belarus to immediately declare a moratorium on death sentences and executions as a first step towards the full abolition of death penalty;

Call upon the Constitutional Court of Belarus to issue a moratorium on the death penalty, and to rule on the constitutionality of the application of the death penalty;

Call on the European Parliament and the European Commission to raise a question with the Belarusian Parliament and other relevant authorities about the inadmissibility of the application of death penalty in Belarus;

Call on the Council of Europe and other EU bodies to urge Belarus to abolish the death penalty and to join the community of nations that have chosen to replace vengeance with human dignity;

Call the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of Europe and other EU bodies to take into account the first alternative UPR on youth rights in Belarus to the UN Human Rights Council when realising international projects with the Republic of Belarus;

Call all the members of the European Youth Forum to join the movement against Death Penalty in Belarus and to support the Belarusian National Youth Council "RADA" in this field.