



UPR 22, May 4, 2015
Recommendations by Canada

Belarus

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Belarus:

1. Take the steps necessary to ensure that its upcoming presidential elections are free, fair and in line with international standards, in full respect of Article 25 of the ICCPR, including by allowing opposition parties to freely participate and by inviting independent international observers.
2. Immediately release its remaining political prisoners, investigate reports of mistreatment, and take action against those allegedly responsible in accordance with domestic and international law.
3. Remove restrictions on civil society, including the prohibition on NGOs receiving foreign funds, restrictions on volunteer work outside business hours, and obstacles to official registration of NGOs, in line with the rights to freedom of association and of expression.
4. Protect the right to freedom of assembly and association of human rights defenders, in particular those campaigning against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Observations:

We are concerned that the intimidation of and restrictions on opposition parties and journalists will prevent the people of Belarus from exercising their right to free and fair elections.

We are also deeply concerned by the ongoing detention of political prisoners and by continuing restrictions on civil society and NGOs.