

**UPR 22nd Session
(Geneva, 04.05.15)
Review of Belarus
Intervention by Greece**

Thank you Mr President,

Greece wishes to welcome the delegation and to express our thanks for the information contained in their National Report. Greece notes with serious concern violations of the freedom of assembly and crackdown on peaceful protests, continued reports of government harassment towards human rights defenders and civil society groups, arrests and detentions of journalists as well as severe restrictions on the internet freedom. We also call on Belarus to abolish the death penalty.

Greece recommends Belarus:

- to cease the intimidation, harassment and arbitrary detention of human rights defenders, NGO groups, and journalists and to provide guarantees for the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, as well as to end its restrictions and surveillance of the Internet, namely by amending its legislation in order to remove extrajudicial procedures for blocking websites, in line with recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, whose authorized visit by the Belarussian authorities in 2013 is welcomed as a step in the right direction.
- to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and to bring detention conditions in places of deprivation of liberty in line with international standards.
- to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and opt-in to the inquiry and inter-state mechanisms.

Thank you Mr President.