



Statement by H.E. Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi
Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and
Other International Organizations in Geneva
22nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review
BELARUS
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Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Belarus on the occasion of the presentation of its second National Report to the Universal Periodic Review.

My Delegation welcomes the adoption of the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Act which combats the scourge of human trafficking and provides measures to protect and rehabilitate the victims. We also commend Belarus on the economic and social measures introduced in particular to support families with children as well as the steady progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

My Delegation wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. To strengthen further the impartiality and independence of the judiciary by implementing the recent decrees on judicial procedures and by promptly and thoroughly investigating any allegation or complaint of ill-treatment in national detention facilities.
2. To consider introducing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition.
3. To ensure that no restrictions are imposed on the right to freedom of religion and belief, and to guarantee greater respect for the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association.

Thank you Mr. President