



International Press Institute Norway, IPI Norge

His excellency
Mr Andrei Giro
Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus
Berlin, Germany

On behalf of the Norwegian National Committee of the International Press Institute (IPI), we write to demand an end to the arbitrary attacks on journalists and media organizations in Belarus and the release of all jailed journalists and media workers.

We denounce the continued efforts by the government of Belarus to suppress media freedom, and the brutality with which the authorities have targeted those exercising their right to press freedom and freedom of expression.

We condemn the outrageous and illegal kidnapping of Roman Protasevich, co-founder of NEXTA Telegram channel, and Sofia Sapega, as well as the so-called “interview” with Mr. Protasevich on state television, actions which constitute a severe violation of fundamental human rights and the rule of law. They must be immediately freed.

We call for the immediate release of the more than two dozen journalists being held by the authorities. We also ask you to transmit to the relevant authorities our request to allow an urgent delegation of independent medical experts and international journalist organizations to visit all journalists currently imprisoned by the Belarusian authorities.

The IPI Norwegian National Committee stands in solidarity with our journalist colleagues in Belarus. We will not remain silent in the face of these attacks against them.

Oslo, Norway, 2021-06-18

Ole Kristian Bjellaanes
Chairperson
IPI Norway National Committee