



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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59th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the SR on the situation of human rights in Belarus

26 June 2025

**Delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations
in Geneva**

Mr. President,

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

We remain gravely concerned by the human rights situation in Belarus. Italy continues to stand with the people of Belarus and the democratic opposition in exile in their pursuit of freedom, justice, and democratic aspirations.

We strongly condemn the repression of political and civil rights - including freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and association - by the Belarusian Government. While the recent release of political prisoners is a welcome development that we encourage to further extend, arbitrary detentions, reported ill-treatment of detainees and continued silencing of dissent raise serious human rights concerns.

As the Special Rapporteur underlined, it is particularly troubling that Belarus remains the only country in Europe that still applies the death penalty.

Italy reiterates its call for the Belarusian Government to uphold its international human rights obligations. At the same time, we remain committed to avoiding harm to the Belarusian population. Efforts should focus on preserving people-to-people contacts and supporting civil society actors.

I thank you.