



# CZECH REPUBLIC

## Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

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76<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly

Third Committee – ID with Ms Anais Marin

**Statement by**

**Lenka Aldorf**

**First Secretary**

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

*The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU.*

Madam Special Rapporteur,

I wish to thank you for your report.

We remain deeply concerned about intensifying widespread and systematic human rights and fundamental freedoms violations, continuing massive repressions against civil society, journalists, independent media and all active citizens in Belarus. Detainees face torture and ill-treatment; courts in Belarus continue to pronounce harsh purely politically motivated sentences. We support independent international investigation of all atrocities by appropriate mechanisms.

We strongly condemn further restrictive measures of Belarusian authorities against freedom of expression and independent media both online and offline and continue to call for immediate release of unlawfully imprisoned blogger Ihar Losik as well as other independent journalists and media workers. We are shocked by the detention of Darya Losik on October 18. She has not been released even though the deadline for her preliminary detainment has ended. We call for the immediate and unconditional release of Darya, wife of Ihar and mother of their 4 year old daughter Paulina.

Furthermore, we urge Belarus to refrain from any further engagement in the Russian unlawful military aggression against Ukraine and to fully adhere to its international obligations.

*Madam Special Rapporteur,*

*could you provide more information on the independent media situation in Belarus and best practices of their support?*

I thank you.