



EDS – European Democrat Students
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Statement

One day before the presidential elections in Belarus, on December, 18 2010, the chairman of the international youth public organization “Young Front” (Małady front) Zmicier Dashkevich and also its activists Eduard Lobov and Denis Lazar were preventively detained by Belarusian authorities. They were detained by the people in a black uniform who didn't say who they were. The members of the organization were leaving the house of one of them when after 10 meters' walk several unknown people beat them and took them somewhere. The next day, December, 19 2010, it appeared that 3 guys were detained and put into an investigative isolation ward because they were allegedly beating civilian residents with the metal objects - nail-catchers. According to this, a criminal case in compliance with Article 339 part3 of the Criminal Code of Belarus “Hooliganism” was opened.

Article 339 part3

«Actions, specified in the 1st and 2nd parts of this article, accomplished with a weapon, other objects used as a weapon for an infliction of a bodily harm, application of explosives and explosive devices or accomplished with the threaten of their application with the absence of signs of a felony (especially malicious hooliganism)» are punished with the sentence from 3 to 10 years of imprisonment.

In the evening, on December, 19 2010, while the dispersal and brutally beating of demonstrators who were protesting against falsifications of the elections and the continuation of the seizure of power by Lukashenko, dozens of “Young Front” members were beaten and detained. After that the majority of them including the whole executive personnel were sentenced to 10 and 12 days of imprisonment. The deputy chairman of the organization Anastasia Polozhanka was incriminated Article 293 “Mass disorders”, for which she can be sentenced for 5 to 15 years of imprisonment. “Young Front” is the organization which initiated the youth mobilizing campaign “Go Away!”. “Young Front” – one of the major political forces which called the youth to come out on the streets on the elections day for the peaceful protest. Lukashenko several times said that he would't let the activity of “Young Front”. First time he said this after the 2001 elections. During all this time (2001 – 2010) the organization had been brutally repressed by all the security, defence and law enforcement agencies. Lots of political criminal cases were opened, people were put in jail, discharged from their job and universities, intimidated their families. Today the Belarusian authorities try to intimidate the leaders and activists of “Young Front” organization by initiating criminal cases against their leaders.

On the assumption of the abovementioned facts,

In the name of European Democrat Students we strongly require from the Belarusian authorities to release the leaders and activists of “Young Front” and acquit of all the politically motivated charges against them.

Bence Bauer
Chairman
European Democrat Students

