



TO: Commanders of the Armed Forces of Belarus

6 October 2020

We, Members of the European Parliament, want to address you with a very clear message concerning the ‘inauguration’ of Aliaksandr Lukashenka, which took place on 23 September 2020:

This procedure, that Lukashenka has organised in secrecy for himself, is null and void both on moral and legal grounds; it does not make him the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Belarus. From now on citizen Lukashenka is no longer the President of Belarus, he is just the organiser of a power grab and coup d’état, therefore any orders coming from Lukashenka to you are illegal.

Now it is time for you to make your personal decision: to follow your oath to defend the people of Belarus, or to follow the illegal orders of a power usurper, citizen Lukashenka. Giving illegal orders - is a crime, following illegal orders - is also a crime. The international community will investigate all those crimes.

We are absolutely sure, that you perfectly know, that even though Lukashenka compromised the voting process, harassed and eliminated candidates, and stole the votes of the Belarusian people, he still lost the election on 9 August 2020 – that is a fact.

The People of Belarus consider Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya as the winner of the elections and as the President-elect of Belarus. The Coordination Council is an interim representation of the people demanding democratic change in Belarus. This has been acknowledged by the European Parliament in its 17 September 2020 Resolution on the situation in Belarus.

Instead of engaging in dialogue with the nation through the Coordination Council, Lukashenka has turned the military and security forces into a tool for violating the human rights of the Belarusian people.

You, military and police commanders are also Belarusians, as are the people who are on the streets peacefully pleading for their rights and for a fair election. You should be protecting civilians, not beating and harassing them, including pregnant women and elderly. This is a historical turning point where you must make the right decision - to be part of the coup d’état and military junta, organised by citizen Lukashenka, or to stand on the side of history of a peaceful Belarusian civic nation that is simply asking for the people’s rights to be respected.

Hear the voice of your fellow citizens; listen to what your own conscience tells you. Do not turn against your fellow compatriots. Do not enable this illegal power grab. Do not become part of Lukashenka's military junta. Do not become part of the crime.

Sincerely,

Members of the European Parliament

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Witold Jan Waszczykowski  
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