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Troyes, 1 September 2020

Your Excellency, Dear Brother,

I am writing to you as Pax Christi International is deeply concerned over escalating tensions in your country in the wake of the presidential elections held on 9 August 2020. On behalf of our global Catholic movement for peace, I would like to express our solidarity with and admiration for the nonviolent resistance actions taken by Belarusians reflecting their strong desire for a peaceful transition in your country.

As a peace movement we denounce the use of the violence, arbitrary detentions, and torture, as well as violation of the right to freedom of expression. We condemn security forces blocking access to churches where activists seek shelter during protests, as this is a violation of the right to worship and to seek protection. It is in stark contrast to the many Belarusian people protesting on a daily basis without any recourse to violence. They act in a nonviolent way for democratic values and their fundamental human rights to be respected.

Belarusians rightly demand their government to uphold the dignity of each person, on the basis of the guarantee of fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression. We ask for the violence and human rights violations to stop and the necessary dialogue to be initiated, for which the OSCE has offered its help as mediator, so that Belarus can start the path towards being a democratic society, in which everyone can fully enjoy their rights.

At this crucial moment in history, we are standing with you and your people, we support you and we pray for you.



+ Marc Stenger  
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Co-President of Pax Christi International