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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 17 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you a copy of the letter from the public association Belarusian Union of Women regarding the situation on the border between Poland and Belarus (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 74 (b)

(Signed) Valentin **Rybakov**



Annex to the letter dated 17 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Appeal from the public association “Belarusian Union of Women” in connection with the situation at the border

We, Belarusian women, appeal to all women of the world, women’s and human rights organizations, national Governments and all those who care about the situation on the Belarusian-Polish border. A large number of citizens from Middle Eastern countries seeking entry to the European Union are caught in a migration trap.

For several decades, the “collective” West has imposed its democracy on the Middle Eastern peoples, positioning itself as a promoter of “true” values and the “right” way of life. Having sincerely believed this, many people left their native land and everything to which they were attached with their heart and soul.

However, on their way to a better life, the migrants face a harsh reality. Without approval to cross the Polish border, people are forced to live for days under the open sky, huddle on the damp frozen ground, burning fires to keep warm. Because of the cold they cannot sleep at night, they have no supplies of drinking water or food, and no clothes or shoes suitable for the weather. Many people are starting to become sick and need medication and help from specialists.

At the same time, the migrants are not ready to return. They tirelessly insist that they will stay at the Polish border until the end – even if they are destined to die.

We, Belarusian women, cannot be indifferent to what is happening or remain impassive. After all, we are the heirs of those who experienced all the hardships and deprivations of wars that were not initiated by us and through no fault of our own. A sense of compassion for human pain and solidarity with those in distress was passed on to us from the milk of our mothers. We are deeply troubled that pregnant women, young children and older persons are suffering nearby, and that people are becoming hostages to political games and manipulations, without being able to influence their own destiny.

We are outraged by the injustice done to the migrants and the callousness and insensitivity of Western politicians. It is absolutely incomprehensible to us how such flagrant cases of violations of human rights, the principles of international law and universal values and standards of conduct can be ignored.

We, the women of Belarus, are categorically opposed to an escalation of the migration situation near the borders of our peace-loving country, and reject the false accusations made against Belarus, our authorities and our people.

We call on the national Governments of the countries of the European Union to stop misleading people and using them for their political purposes. Keep your promises and create the conditions for them stipulated in the international agreements you have signed.

Women’s and human rights organizations, journalists, civil society and everyone who cares about the fate of humanity! Show your concern for migrants, hold your politicians accountable for their commitments, for honesty and integrity to you, to the nations and countries, and to the world!

10 November 2021