

Resolution 1
of the Council of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates
dated October 15, 2020
in the matter of harassment of Belarusian advocates

The Council of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates

composed of:

1. adv. Mikołaj Pietrzak – Dean
2. adv. Zbigniew Banaszczyk
3. adv. Michał Bieniak
4. adv. Katarzyna Bilewska
5. adv. Michał Fertak
6. adv. Katarzyna Gajowniczek-Pruszyńska – Vice-Dean
7. adv. Jakub Jacyna – Treasure
8. adv. Aleksander Krysztofowicz – Assistant Secretary
9. adv. Andrzej Orliński – W Vice-Dean
10. adv. Agata Rewerska
11. adv. Luka Szaranowicz
12. adv. Kamil Szmid
13. adv. Michał Szpakowski
14. adv. Maciej Ślusarek

adopted the following resolution by acclamation

The Council of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates expresses its solidarity with Belarusian advocates, Aleksander Pylchanka, Maxim Znak, Iliya Salei and Ludmila Kazak, who are harassed because they are providing legal assistance to oppositionists.

The Council of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates calls the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Belarus to stop repressions and harassment against Aleksander Pylchanka and Ludmila Kazak, and to release the detained lawyers Maxim Znak and Iliya Salei. Independence of lawyers from state authority and its pressure, and the ability to freely perform advocates criminal defense duties is essential to ensure the protection of human rights and civil liberties.

Providing professional legal assistance to those in need is the primary task of a defense lawyer, regardless of the country. It is unacceptable to intimidate defense lawyers because they are performing their professional duties. Everyone - also a political opponent of the government - has the right to legal aid.

The Council of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates calls the National Bar Council of the Republic of Belarus and the Bar Council in Minsk to support and defend attorneys - members of their bar association.