



Ottawa, March 17th, 2021

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Canada
350 Sparks Street, Suite 908, Ottawa, Ontario

On behalf of Polish-Canadians, The Canadian Polish Club respectfully asks the Belarusian Embassy in Canada to convey to the Belarusian Government our protest against the incarceration of the co-founders and co-directors of the Romuald Traugutt Polish Scout Social School in Brest-on-the-Bug.

The arrest of Anna Paniszewa and her Deputy, the Co-Founders and Co-Directors of the Polish School in Brest, under the pretext of their inciting racial, national, religious, or social hatred is a blatant example of a violation of the rights of the Polish National Minority in Belarus to cultivate its culture, history, tradition, and language, as guaranteed by

- a) The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - b) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National, Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by Resolution no. 47/135 of 18 December 1992,
 - c) Resolution of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on persons belonging to national ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities, and
 - d) established international law norms applicable to Belarus following its membership in the United Nations and the international community.
- During her arrest, Anna Panisheva was brutally treated, and her human rights were flagrantly violated.

The charges, brought against Anna Paniszewa by the State, were trumped-up. It is, in fact, the Belarus Government who is using the arrest and the false accusations to spread racial hate, and drive a wedge between the ethnic groups in Bielarus.

Anna Paniszewa is not a political activist. She is a humanist, a social worker, and a devoted teacher. As an ethnic Pole residing in Belarus, she has the right to promote the Polish language, culture, and traditions. These are fundamental human rights guaranteed by the quoted above declarations and by internationally accepted practices and customs, binding on Belarus as a member of the United Nations and the international community.

We hereby appeal to the Belarusian authorities to release from prison the Director of the Romuald Traugutt Polish Scout Social School in Brest Anna Paniszewa and her Deputy and to stop discrimination against them.

Sincerely,



Ludwik Klimkowski
President

CC: : [Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Marc Garneau](#), [Canadian Teachers' Federation](#), [Amnesty International Canada](#), [Executive Commissioner and CEO of Scouts Canada](#), [Amnesty International](#), [OSCE](#), Council of Europe: Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, [UN Human Rights Council: Complaint Procedure Unit](#).