



United States Mission to the OSCE

On the Release of Prisoners in Belarus

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 3, 2025

President Trump’s strong leadership led to the release on June 21 of fourteen individuals imprisoned in Belarus. Thanks to the work of Special Presidential Envoy Keith Kellogg, Deputy Envoy John Coale, and their team, fourteen long-held prisoners – from Estonia, Japan, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, and Belarus – are now free to reunite with their families. As opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said after she was reunited with her husband, “Without the help of [President Trump’s administration], this moment would have been impossible.”

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance from our allies and partners, especially the Lithuanian government. We welcome these positive steps by Belarus and urge Belarus to continue releasing prisoners as a sign that it is committed and serious about promoting regional stability and security.

In this connection, we note the 16 pardons issued earlier this week.

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