

## **The Synodal Council of the ECCB Calls For Solidarity With the Oppressed in Belarus**

We have been following the tense situation in Belarus with deep concern. The protests against the dictatorial regime of President Lukashenko have been going on for seven months. Although the August presidential election was obviously rigged, the regime is not willing to back down. Opposition protesters face permanent threats and persecution. There is credible evidence of hundreds of cases of physical assaults, torture, and sexual violence against the protesters. New cases emerges every day. Simultaneously, trials against the protest organizers continue.

We come up with our call at a time when the international attention is dwindling and when the protesters become increasingly exhausted. No breakthrough has materialized and, at first glance, nothing is happening. This is all the more reason for our Church to support the Belarusian people in all possible ways. We are organizing a joint worship meeting, collaborating closely with the local Belarusian community. We want to draw public attention to the grave situation in Belarus - in the Czech Republic and, more broadly, in the European Union as well as through the international ecumenical organizations of which our Church is a member. We also support the needy in Belarus financially.

Let our own pandemics-related problems not hide from our sight the many places in the world where injustice, oppression, and unfreedom prevail.

**The Synodal Council of the ECCB**

Prague, February 2021