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**Statement at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the human Rights Council**  
**Agenda Item 4 – Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR Report on**  
**Belarus**

**22 March 2023**

**H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger**  
**Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein**

Thank you, Mister President,

We thank the High Commissioner as well as the three appointed experts for their revealing report on the human rights situation in Belarus.

We remain worried by the continuously dire human rights situation in Belarus and condemn all acts of unnecessary and disproportionate use of force, torture and other ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests and detention, sexual and gender-based violence as well as the reported cases of violations of the rights to due process and fair trial, the rights to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

We also share the concerns of a number of Special Procedures mandate holders over the recent politically motivated long-term prison sentence against the Belarussian human rights defender Ales Bialiatski as well as other of his colleagues at the Human Rights Centre Viasna.

We urge the Belarussian authorities to conduct independent, impartial and credible investigations into all alleged serious human rights violations, release all political prisoners immediately and unconditionally and fully cooperate with the OSCE and UN mandates and mechanisms on the situation in Belarus.

In this respect, we finally stress the need for an independent investigative mechanism into the situation in Belarus which has a broader mandate and is sufficiently funded.

I thank you.