

Resolution in support of the BELARUS trade unions**to be adopted at the EFFAT Executive Committee on Sept 10, 2020**

Condemns the escalation of repression against leaders of the movement for democracy and the independent trade unions in Belarus, in particular the use of torture and extreme levels of brutality and the disappearances of activists;

Demands the immediate and unconditional release of imprisoned worker and democracy activists;

Expresses full support to the workers involved in peaceful actions, including work stoppages and strikes;

Notes that the situation is exacerbated by the state-controlled trade unions under the umbrella of the FPB which are widely used to intimidate workers.

We therefore:

Affirm our support the IUF-affiliated Independent Trade Union, BITU, and all other affiliates of the Belarus Congress of Democratic Trade Unions;

Call on trade unions in Europe and international organisations to break immediately all relations with FPB and its allied structures;

Call on the European Union and its member states to use every possible means - diplomatic, political, and economic – to pressure the government of Belarus to release immediately all political prisoners and to end the violence against its citizens.

Actions which the EU should consider include:

- reconsideration of all economic relations with Belarus;
- removal of all trade preferences;
- introduction of a yellow card system in relations to all products produced or transited through the territory of Belarus;
- personal sanctions against representatives of the government responsible for the violence and repression.