



COALITION OF POLISH AMERICANS

PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF POLISH AMERICANS

www.coalitionpa.org

March 28, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the treatment of the Polish minority in Belarus, which has recently been subjected to unwarranted repressions from the government of President Lukashenko in Minsk. His regime has now turned to attack the Polish minority that has joined in calls for new, fair, and democratic elections and demanded respect for democratic standards.

Over the course of the last few weeks several prominent leaders of the Polish minority in Belarus have been arrested. Among them are the head of the Association of Poles in Belarus, Andzelika Borys, and several Polish teachers and journalists such as Hanna Paniszewa and Andrzej Poczobut. We believe they were targeted not just because of the known commitment of the Polish community to traditions of personal liberty and democratic institutions, but also because of Poland's close relationship with the United States. The Lukashenko regime sees the Polish minority in Belarus as associated with and sympathetic to the positions expressed by the United States. Therefore, the Polish minority is seen by the Lukashenko regime as a dangerous threat to its stability. As these repressions seem to be escalating, we are gravely concerned about the safety and future of the leaders and activists of the Polish minority there.

The Coalition of Polish Americans is a nationwide organization established to represent the voice and interest of Polish Americans. We are strongly committed to the ideals of personal liberty and of a fully representative society founded upon respect for the rule of law. We stand together with our brethren and everyone else in Belarus who yearns to have a society based on these rights. Therefore, we urge your administration to closely consult with the Polish government and other allies in the region to adopt a policy toward the Lukashenko regime that will bring an end to the brutal repressions it has undertaken against those opposing it, and that will help to protect the rights of the Polish minority in Belarus.

Respectfully,

Stanisław Sliwowski
President, Coalition of Polish Americans.