



JEUNES EUROPÉENS FÉDÉRALISTES
JUNGE EUROPÄISCHE FÖDERALISTEN
YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

IP02 Resolution: JEF shall not stay quiet until the last dictatorship of Europe falls!

The alarming situation in Belarus

On the 16th of March 2006, Lukachenko, the President of Belarus, secured his grip on power by proclaiming his victory in the elections with 82% of votes. The elections have been condemned by the international community as the results were frauded, opposition candidates were harassed throughout the election campaign, media was controlled, and the main opposition candidate was imprisoned.

In Belarus, laws have been introduced and implemented that forbid criticism of the state and deny the right of assembly. Furthermore, university students have been expelled on grounds of their political beliefs which violates the basic human right of freedom of speech. This combined with the fact that most of NGO activities have been made illegal make the emergence of a civil society and opposition movements virtually impossible.

JEF's commitment

JEF strives for a democratic, free and united Europe and therefore commits itself to fight for these principles in Belarus. We demand that the leaders of Europe play an active role in achieving this and put pressure on regime the Russian administration which supports Lukachenkos regime.

Before the 2006 Belarussian presidential elections, JEF organised a pan European action in 23 cities. By gagging statues and placing signs stating: "Give the people of Belarus a voice", JEF managed to:

- increase public awareness of the situation in Belarus,
- send a clear message to Europe's political leaders that it is time to act,
- give moral support to civil society in Belarus that learned of the action through Belarussian media, especially opposition websites and magazines.

JEF therefore commits itself to continue being a strong defender of democracy in Europe by making this pan-European action a yearly event on the 16th of March, the day of the fraudulent Belarussian elections.

We shall not stay quiet until the last dictatorship of Europe falls!

Adopted by the Federal Committee of JEF-Europe in Athens, October 2006