



EU INTEGRATION & COMMON SECURITY: MAKING IT HAPPEN

The 6th annual meeting of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
20-21 November 2014, Batumi, Georgia

RESOLUTION: On the support of human rights activist Elena Tonkacheva
SESSION: 6th EaP CSF Annual Assembly
ADOPTED ON: 21/11/14

We, the participants of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership,

Taking into account the guidelines of the EU against human rights defenders,

Expressing our concern at the increasing incidence of pressure on human rights defenders in the Eastern Partnership countries,

Declare fundamental disagreement about the cancellation of the residence permit in the Republic of Belarus and the decision of the Belarusian authorities of November 5, 2014 of expulsion out of the country for 3 years within one-month time well-known human rights activist, chairman of the educational institution "Center for Legal Transformation".

Since the formal basis for cancellation of residence and expulsion are camcorder recorded facts of minor speeding by the car belonging to Elena Tonkacheva, without presenting evidence of her driving;

As far as the decision-making body of the Republic of Belarus refused to consider more than 7,700 signatures on a petition of citizens of Belarus to abolish the deportation Elena Tonkacheva and restoration of its residence permit,

We consider the decision taken by the authorities as politically motivated and a totally disproportionate sanction compared to the danger of the offense. We condemn the actions of authorities aimed at obstructing human rights activities of organizations and citizens.

We call on the institutions and states of the EU and the Eastern Partnership, other international bodies and institutions to demonstrate principles and insistence on democratic values, human rights and freedoms, to express their position on the decisions of Belarusian authorities, provide necessary support to Elena Tonkacheva and stop the expulsion of human rights activist from Belarus.

We urge the Government of the Republic of Belarus to stop the practice of pressure on civil society organizations, human rights organizations and human rights defenders.

We call on civil society organizations from Eastern Partnership countries to express public support to Elena Tonkacheva and send to the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus requests to cancel the decision to expel Elena Tonkacheva.