

## BELARUS: SOLIDARITY WITH STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND STAFF

16.09.2020

Since the obviously influenced presidential elections of August 9, 2020, hundreds of thousands of Belarusians have been taking to the streets every day to peacefully protest the manipulation of election results. Many of the protesters are being abused, arrested and beaten up by state institutions. Among them are students and professors who advocate for an end to the violence and for new elections under fair and free conditions. Since the beginning of the winter semester on September 1, state authorities have been targeting universities directly, sometimes without any identification, to arbitrarily beat up students and university employees as a way to exert pressure. At the same time, the state is asking the administrations to prohibit free speech at their universities.

We therefore support the declaration of the German Association for East European Studies which demands of the still sitting president Lukashenko as well as government officials an immediate end to all violence against members of universities and other scientific institutions.

We, the General Students Committee of the University of Mainz, declare our solidarity with all students, professors, scientists and the entire staff of universities in Belarus.

### **Declaration of the German Association for East European Studies:**

<https://www.dgo-online.org/gewalt-an-universitaeten-in-belarus/>

(in German)

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