



International Federation of Liberal Youth

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Dear friends and colleagues,

IFLRY has always been on the forefront of the global defense for human rights as it highly values the well-being and human dignity of every individual in this world, no matter her or his place of origin. It has therefore encouraged the creation of multilateral institutions that can tackle human rights violations by their influence on the political decision-makers in the abusive countries.

Hence, at its June 2006 Executive Committee meeting in Niagara Falls, Canada, the International Federation of Liberal Youth unanimously approved a resolution supporting the creation of the United Nations Human Rights Council. As the successor of the outdated Human Rights Commission, it was hoped to be an improvement in the international human rights work. The IFLRY Bureau subsequently created an IFLRY Shadow Human Rights Council (SHRC) in order to closely and critically follow the work of the UN Council. Recently, the coordinator of the SHRC, Jan Pawlak, attended the 4th session of the UN Council in Geneva.

Over the past year, the UN Council has shown some serious flaws as state interests are continuously prioritized over the effective promotion of human rights. Moreover, on the 17th of May, 2007, elections will be held for the UN Council, and the prospects are not very promising. Among others, Belarus is seeking a seat and as you can read in the attached 'Background Information document', it does seem likely that it may actually win the election.

As part of an informal coalition of international NGO's, IFLRY has decided to take part in a campaign aiming to keep Belarus out of the United Nations Human Rights Council. This initiative is in line with its long-time support for a peaceful regime change in Belarus.

It is in this context that the IFLRY Bureau calls upon its Member Organizations to assist in influencing their respective governments to vote according to the above-mentioned aim. We have prepared an 'action kit' which includes (a.o.) a press statement, a letter to be sent to the government and other decision-makers, and more background information. Both the statement and the letter can be adjusted to any of your needs and preferences.

It is completely upon you, the Member Organizations, to decide whether, and to what extent, you would like to involve yourself in this campaign. Nevertheless, we believe that this is an excellent opportunity for the International Federation to make use of its global political reach and to make a united effort to influence such an important political issue.

If you are interested in this campaign, please send an e-mail to bart@iflry.org in order to receive the action package.

Liberally yours,

Bart Wood Daniel Wennick