



**Intervention by H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič,
Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and
Other International Organizations in Geneva
Special Debate during the 45th Session of the Human Rights Council
“On the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus”
*Geneva, 18 September 2020***

Madam President,

The Holy See has been following with great attention the socio-political situation following the elections in Belarus and renews its appeal for a peaceful and just resolution to the tensions through sincere dialogue, the rejection of violence, and respect for justice and fundamental human and civil rights.

With his recent appeal and the subsequent visit of the Secretary for Relations with States to Minsk, the Holy Father has demonstrated a particular and tangible solicitude for the whole Country and especially for the local Catholic Church. It is hoped that the various meetings and discussions, with both civil and ecclesiastical authorities, might bring about a deeper understanding of the ecclesial mission of the Church and of the instrumental role that it plays in fostering social reconciliation and national cohesion.

In the search for a peaceable solution to the current crisis, the Holy See considers it indispensable that demonstrators present their requests in a peaceful way. It is also necessary that governing authorities exercise restraint and listen to the voices of their citizens and remain open to their just aspirations, assuring full respect for their civil and human rights.

The Holy See, in desiring a peaceful and rapid resolution to the ongoing tensions, remains open to any further discussion that might bring about such much needed peace.

Thank you, Madam President.