



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

15th Day of the Endangered Lawyer – 24 January 2025

The situation of lawyers in Belarus

Call for demonstration

The Association of European Democratic Lawyers (AED, of which the *Syndicat des Avocats pour la Démocratie* is a member), AVOCATS.BE, Avocats sans Frontières, the ASM, the Human Rights Institute of the Brussels Bar, the CCBE and the FIDH **are calling for a demonstration on 24 January 2025 at 13:00 in front of the Belarusian embassy, avenue Molière 192, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles)**, as part of the Day of the Endangered Lawyer. It is advisable to wear a robe.

This is the 15th edition of the Day of the Endangered Lawyer, during which lawyers in many towns and cities are mobilising to lend their support to colleagues who are being attacked, persecuted or threatened because of the practice of their profession.

This year, the Day of the Endangered Lawyer is dedicated to Belarus, where the situation of our colleagues is particularly worrying.

Following the presidential election and mass demonstrations in 2020, a crackdown by the government has resulted in the targeting of lawyers, journalists, human rights defenders and dissidents. More and more lawyers are facing increasing criminal sanctions, arbitrary detentions, and systemic interference in their professional duties.

The process of terminating a lawyer's licence notably lacks transparency and impartiality. The arbitrary nature of these proceedings undermines the independence of the legal profession and fosters an environment where lawyers operate under the constant threat of losing their professional status.

We cannot remain insensitive in the face of the countless attacks on colleagues, which constitute so many attacks on the rule of law and the principle of access to justice for all.

On 24 January, we hope to see many of you in front of the Belarusian embassy to support our Belarusian colleagues and denounce the attacks on the free exercise of the profession.