

Human Rights Council – 38th Session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Belarus
25 June 2018

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report on the situation of human rights in Belarus.

Australia shares the Special Rapporteur's concern that the period under review has shown no improvement in the human rights situation in Belarus.

We call on Belarus to act on the Special Rapporteur's recommendations to release all political prisoners and to fully support the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association.

We share the Special Rapporteur's concerns at the Government's lack of progress in abolishing the death penalty. Australia is deeply disappointed that Belarus executed two individuals in 2017 and that another six individuals are currently on death row. We are concerned by the secrecy surrounding executions and reports that no details of executions or of places of burial are given to families. We support the Special Rapporteur's recommendation that authorities in Belarus adopt a moratorium on executions, leading to the total abolition of the death penalty.

We ask the Special Rapporteur: how can the international community best support abolition of the death penalty in Belarus?

170 Words (max 220)