**Kancelaria Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej**

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Dear Mr. President,

I am addressing you as a citizen of a neighbouring country, a friend of Poland and a person who is not left untouched by the upsetting situation happening in the last months in the forests on the border with Belarus.

I am aware that Poland is also a victim of the hybrid war between Belarus and the EU as revenge for the sanctions imposed, and it finds itself in a very difficult position. I feel very strongly that the Lukashenko regime's efforts to destabilize the European Union are immediately upon your country. However, with your current unprecedentedly uncompromising approach to people who are desperately seeking safety for themselves, their children and loved ones, and who find themselves in the middle of Lukashenko's political game, you are becoming co-responsible for their continued suffering.

At least fifteen people have already died of hypothermia, and it is only a matter of time before more lives are at stake due to the growing frosts. In the border forests, there are demonstrably small children, infants and some women are at a high stage of pregnancy (several of them even gave birth!) on the spot. Families are forcibly divided and some children are even missing after such separation from their parents - parents do not know where their children are. In addition, all these people, and especially children, are exposed to the direct threat of death as temperatures fall.

These are people who have been deceived. They have succumbed to false reports, which the Belarussian side is purposefully spreading, that an easy path to rescue and to Europe is crossing the Belarusian-Polish border. It sounds like a miracle to desperate people fleeing war zones. But the reality ends in the freezing darkness somewhere in the border forests without access to water, food, health care and safety.

Under the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, by which EU Member States are bound, everyone fleeing their country from persecution or serious harm has the right to seek international protection. The right to asylum is a fundamental human right and its granting to persons who fulfil the conditions of this Convention is an international obligation.

The right to asylum is also guaranteed by Article 18 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Article 19 prohibits mass expulsions and protects individuals from being evicted, expelled or extradited to a State where they are in serious danger of being subjected to the death penalty, torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

I see Poland as a proud, strong state based on Christian values ​​and also the experience of many Polish citizens fleeing to save themselves from atrocities. And you are a modern state that has the capacity to deal with the crisis situation at the borders so that not only the security of the state is preserved, but also humanity.

I am asking for nothing more than to stop the practice of so-called pushbacks, in which people are forcibly taken to the border forests and pushed to the Belarusian side of the border, and to allow humanitarian workers and doctors access to the people who remain trapped in this "vacuum zone".

Political disputes cannot prevail over human lives. Please preserve humanity and leave a free path to these people, at least for humanitarian workers and doctors. To take into account is to participate in it. You have the power to prevent further human tragedies.

Thank you for every life saved.

In (CITY and STATE) ------- (DATE)

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 (signature)

 (It is possible to add your e-mail, cell-phone)