

Resolution to support voices in exile.

In the wake of the deteriorating human rights situation and shrinking democratic space where academics, democracy activists and members of opposition parties are forced out of their countries it becomes crucial for international organisations to support voices in exile. For example, in February Ortega's regime in Nicaragua stripped hundreds of political opponents of their citizenship rights forcing many into exile, similarly the Lukashenko regime in Belarus is setting a new law in place which forces opposition parties to register every party member, which puts the lives of the opposition members in danger and leaves them with little other choice but to continue political activities in exile. Friends of democracy thus must understand the critical role of supporting these voices in exile.

The CDI-IDC therefore:

- 1) Encourages policymakers on different levels to request regular hearings on the current situation in authoritarian, undemocratic and repressive states.
- 2) Underlines the importance of prioritizing and expediting the granting of residence permits to politicians in exile.
- 3) Calls for actions to be taken in order to diminish the excessive bureaucratic measures curtailing the day-to-day life of political activists living in exile.
- 4) Stresses the importance of support to civil society organizations in exile. Ensuring that these organizations are self-sufficient in the long run is vital to the cause of democracy in their respective countries.
- 5) Acknowledges the need for legal assistance to political activists that are stripped of their legal and civil rights.

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