



R



● SVERIGES FÖRFATTARFÖRBUND

Media Information

Brussels/Stockholm/Minsk, 25 November 2020

#freewordsbelarus 36 Presidents, Chairs and board members of 33 writers' and translators' organisations from 22 countries representing 120,000 authors, join voices to support the democracy movement in Belarus.

On 26 November, the 90th birthday of the Belarusian writer Uladzimir Karatkievich, the video reading campaign #freewordsbelarus will be launched on the EWC Daily-Motion-channel. The joint action of the European Writers' Council (EWC) and the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL) is a strong sign of solidarity with the Belarusian people and the detained Belarusian authors and artists.

"It is with horror that we, the writers and translators of Europe, follow the current situation in Belarus", says Nina George, President of the European Writers' Council (EWC). "Dictators have always threatened authors and artists first because that is where the most intrepid resistance can be expected. Our colleagues stand in the front line to defend the values of democracy." – "But they are not alone", adds Morten Visby, President of the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL). "Europe is watching and will not look away: We see the regime's violence and oppression, we see the attacks on freedom of expression, but we also hear the brave voices from Belarus refusing to be silenced. We stand by you – and raise our voices for the Belarusian democracy movement."

The solidarity campaign #freewordsbelarus presents the poem *The Border* from the book "Frescoes" by Barys Pjatrovitj, the Chair of The Union of Belarusian Writers, translated into English by a translator who prefers to stay anonymous – for safety reasons. *The Border*, read in 35 single sentences, is recomposed, piece by piece, and reader by reader, by the voices, faces and feelings of European writers and translators. The complete list of the Presidents, Chairs and Board Members (next page) speaks for itself.

"Taking an immediate stand for the Belarusian people is crucial and decisive. Not only as an act of solidarity with the people of Belarus, but also in a broader sense for the inviolability of democracy and freedom of speech in the whole of Europe", underlines Grethe Rottböll, President of the Swedish Writers' Union, who initiated this supportive action together with the Chair of the International Council, Viveka Sjögren Bangoura. "With the #freewordsbelarus-action, 36 presidents and board members from 33 writers' and translators' organisations from 22 countries raise their voice for the Belarusian democracy movement, representing 120,000 authors from Europe, who stand in solidarity."

An excerpt from *The Border*, by Barys Pjatrovitj:

... and there is no need to mention the cycle, the onset-rising-shining-setting, the border between the light and the darkness that is called "evening" in the evening and "morning" in the morning, and which – in one country – is called totalitarianism, authoritarianism, and the incursion of tyranny.

#freewordsbelarus #Свабодныясловыбеларусь is created in a collaboration of the European Writers' Council (EWC) and the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL) on the initiative of the Swedish Writers' Union together with the Union of Belarusian Writers. The 36 readers – see the complete list on page 2 – show their support with white and red garments, the colours of the democracy movement in Belarus.

**Read more: europeanwriterscouncil.com/freewordsbelarus/
EWC on Daily Motion: dailymotion.com/europeanwriterscouncil**



R



● SVERIGES FÖRFATTARFÖRBUND

The European Writers' Council (EWC) is the federation of 46 national organisations of writers and translators in 30 countries including the EU, as well as Belarus, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and Montenegro, representing 160,000 authors, altogether writing in 31 languages.

The European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL) is the federation of 35 member associations from 29 countries, representing 10,000 individual translators.

The readers in order of appearance (name, organisation, position, country)

Bel Olid	Associació D'escriptors En Llengua Catalana AELC	President	Spain
Joanne Harris	Society of Authors	Chair	United Kingdom
Eystein Hanssen	Forfatterforbundet	Chair	Norway
Morten Visby	Danish Writers' Association / CEATL	Chair/President	Denmark
Teodora Tzankova	Bulgarian Translators' Union	Vice-President	Bulgaria
Manuel Rico Rego	Asociación Colegial de Escritores ACE	President	Spain
Jens J. Kramer	SYNDIKAT e.V.	Chair	Germany
Eva Valvo	Strade	Board Member	Italy
Philip Pullman	Society of Authors	President	United Kingdom
Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo	The Society of Swedish Authors in Finland	President	Finland
Justyna Czechowska	Polish Literary Translators Association	Board member	Poland
Leonidas Galazis	Literature and Criticism Association	President	Cyprus
Arno Jundze	Latvian Writers' Union	Chair	Latvia
Gertrud Maes	Auteursbond	Delegate CEATL	Netherlands
Tanja Petrič	Slovenian Association of Literary Translators	President	Slovenia
Viveka Sjögren Bangoura	The Swedish Writers' Union	Chair of the Inter- national Council	Sweden
Charlotte Collins	Translators' Association	Co-Chair	United Kingdom
Daniel Cristea-Enache	Writers' Union of Romania / European Writers' Council	Director of Communication	Romania
Juliane Wammen	Danish Translators' Association	Vice-President	Denmark
Nina George	European Writers' Council	Chair	Europe
Hilde Lyng	The Norwegian Association of Literary Translators	President	Norway
Werner Richter	IG Übersetzerinnen Übersetzer	Chair	Austria
Endre Szkarosi	Society of Hungarian Authors	Chair	Hungary
Jeroen Thijssen	Auteursbond	President	Netherlands
Lena Falkenhagen	Verband deutscher Schriftstellerinnen und Schriftsteller (VS)	Secretary	Germany
Ondřej Lipár	Czech Writers' Association	Chair	Czech Republic
Yiorgos Chouliaras	Hellenic Authors' Society	Chair	Greece
Lissa Oliver	Irish Writers' Union	President	Ireland
Daiva Daugirdiene	The Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators	Chair	Lithuania
Francesca Novajra	Associazione italiana traduttori e interpreti	Chair	Italy
Grethe Rottböll	Swedish Writers' Union	Delegate CEATL	Sweden
Thomas Weiler	German Literary Translators' Association (VdÜ)	President	Germany
Nicola Solomon	Society of Authors	Member	United Kingdom
Jaakko Kankaanpää	KAOS	Chief Executive	Finland
Geir Hønneland	Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association	Chair	Norway
Barys Pjatrovitj	Union of Belarusian Writers	President	Belarus