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** For immediate release **
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BELARUS

The Transatlantic Institute have been following developments in Belarus, the former Soviet Republic, now governed by Alexander Lukashenko and commonly referred to as the last dictatorship in Europe.

TI director, Ziba Norman, says: "Belarus is a country ripe for change.

"The people are restless and, after a series of fraudulent election results and the dismissal of legislators in 1996, they are making it plain that they will not sit quietly whilst their independent newspapers are shut down and those who are critical of Lukashenko are put in prison.

"Despite fear and intimidation, last month they engaged in a peaceful protest, [www. Solidarity16.org](http://www.Solidarity16.org). 100,000 Belarussians supported by switching off their lights and placing candles in their windows on Oct 16. And they are doing the same on Nov 16th, this time they expect even greater numbers to take part."

Information:

The Transatlantic Institute is a London-based educational charity (registered charity no. 1108682) founded in 2004 to promote a new kind of dialogue on international issues, free of political partisanship and institutional bias, focusing on topics of common concern to America and Europe.

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