

Translated from Russian

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. Information on incidents involving serious violations of the security of Belarusian foreign missions and their staff

The Republic of Belarus, recalling the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/139 of 15 December 2020, entitled “Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives”, has the honour to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations about instances involving serious violations of the security of Belarusian foreign missions and their staff. It requests that this information be included in the report of the Secretary-General on the aforementioned agenda item at the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Since 2020, more than 20 unlawful acts of varying severity have been committed against Belarusian foreign missions and their staff involving acts of vandalism against foreign mission buildings, diplomatic vehicles and Belarusian State symbols, threatening letters and messages sent about the bombing of foreign missions, protests in which the premises of embassies were infiltrated and attacks against staff.

On 26 and 27 February and 3 March 2022, the central entrance to the Embassy of Belarus in Belgium was smeared with green paint, eggs were thrown at the facade of the building and drawings depicting the national flag of Ukraine were painted on the Embassy’s outer fence.

All the incidents were immediately reported to the law enforcement authorities of the host country. In each case, the Embassy promptly sent notes to the Protocol Directorate of the Belgian Foreign Ministry and to the Anti-Crisis Centre, with a request to strengthen security measures at the Belarusian diplomatic mission and to equip a stationary police post near the Embassy. At this stage, however, the above-mentioned request (for a police post near the diplomatic mission) has not been met by the competent authorities of the host country.

On 19 December 2021, hooligan acts of vandalism were committed against the Embassy of Belarus in the United Kingdom (a group of people threw eggs at the Embassy building) and the foreign mission’s staff were attacked (the First Embassy Secretary received serious injuries: a broken nose, a light concussion and a traumatic fracture of the left front incisor).

The Embassy sent a number of notes to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom about the incident. To date, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom has not responded to any of the notes. The perpetrators have been identified, but to date there is no information about

bringing them to justice. Nevertheless, this year the London Police has significantly strengthened measures to protect the Embassy building.

On 1 March 2022, during an unsanctioned picket outside the building of the Belarusian Embassy in Germany, the entrance gate, the sign and the intercom of the consular section were spattered with red paint.

A note of protest was sent to the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the incident. The offender was detained, upon the arrival of the police squad requested by the foreign mission, and subsequently released. After the incident, a 24-hour police post was set up near the building.

On 28 February 2022, during the day, a group of seven people infiltrated the floor of the building where the Embassy of Belarus in Spain is located, blocked the foreign mission's doors and chanted anti-Belarusian slogans while unfurling Ukrainian flags.

A police squad arrived and took control of the entrance to the building to ensure the unobstructed exit of diplomatic vehicles.

On 9 March 2022, at night, two unknown persons threw two ignited improvised explosive devices at the premises of the Belarusian Embassy in Italy, one of which subsequently detonated. As a result of the explosion in the building, some windows in the consular premises were broken and the property of the diplomatic mission was damaged.

A note of protest was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the incident. An investigation is currently under way. In response, the Embassy was allocated a 24-hour armed guard.

On 27 February 2022, during an unauthorized protest near the building of the Belarusian Embassy in Lithuania, the premises of the diplomatic mission were infiltrated, the flagpole of the Embassy was broken, a white-red-white flag and a yellow-and-blue cloth were put in place and Molotov cocktails were found to have been thrown at the diplomatic mission building (causing the foundations to catch fire).

A note of protest was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the incident. A criminal case was initiated. According to the unofficial information available, those responsible for breaking the flagpole have been prosecuted for the desecration of State symbols and punished with fines. Lithuania has taken additional measures aimed at ensuring the security of the diplomatic mission: security at the Embassy and consular section buildings has been strengthened.

On 27 February 2022, unlawful actions were committed against the property of the Consulate-General of Belarus in Bialystok: insulting inscriptions were put on the copper nameplate of the Consulate-General and the facade of the building was desecrated with red paint.

The police were informed by the foreign mission about the facts pertaining to the above-mentioned unlawful actions. On 3 March, the Bialystok City Police Department reported that a

criminal case had been opened on the basis of the reports filed. Since 7 March, the city authorities have provided a 24-hour police watch at the Consulate-General *building* using the guard post pavilion.

On 6 March 2022, an unidentified person stole the national flag of the Republic of Belarus from the flagpole of the Embassy of Belarus in Finland. On 10 March, the State flag of the Republic of Belarus was torn off and cut down from the Embassy flagpole.

The city law enforcement authorities were informed about the incidents and a protest note was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Information was received from the Helsinki police about the start of the investigation, as well as a preliminary report on the crimes, and, in a reply note, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland also reported about the start of the investigation. Police surveillance has been stepped up.

On 28 February 2022 an act of vandalism was committed against the State flag of the Republic of Belarus on the wall of the Belarusian Embassy building in Estonia: the flagpole was broken and the cloth was torn. Posters with protest and anti-war slogans were glued to the front door and porch railings.

A note on the incident was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia with a demand to take exhaustive measures to find and punish the perpetrators, together with a corresponding statement to the police. The Police and Border Guard Board of Estonia initiated criminal proceedings for flag desecration. The Estonian law enforcement authorities have taken additional measures to ensure the security of the Embassy.

All possible measures are continuously being taken by the Republic of Belarus under international law, the requirements of national law and established international practice to ensure the security of Belarusian and foreign diplomatic missions and consular offices, as well as their staff.
