

[The Belarusian Community of the US](#)
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[The Belarusian Community of Chicago, IL](#)
[The Belarusian Community of San Francisco Bay Area, CA](#)
[The Belarusian Community of Los Angeles, CA](#)

Francisco Partners
Mr. Dipanjan (DJ) Deb, CEO
Mr. Andrew Kowal, Deal Partner

CC: Mr. Lyndon Cantor, CEO of Sandvine Inc
Ms. Jenny Weber, Assistant to Mr. Kowal

Via Email With Delivery and Read Receipt

COLLECTIVE DEMAND LETTER

Dear Mr. Deb and Mr. Kowal,

After receiving an alarming [report](#) that Sandvine Inc is supplying the government of Belarus with the equipment used to suppress human and voter rights, we are seeking your immediate help and support in resolving this matter.

Belarus is a country of 9.5 million people, located in the geographical center of Europe. When Alexander Lukashenko was elected president in 1994, he quickly turned into an authoritarian leader (now known as the Last Dictator in Europe) with total control of all government institutions. Not a single Belarusian election since 1994 has been recognized as either free or fair by the international community. Belarus has become a place of repression and prosecution for independent journalism and political opposition. In the past 26 years of Lukashenko's rule, several prominent politicians and journalists have disappeared while thousands have been imprisoned.

On August 9, 2020, Belarus went to the polls to elect a new president. Allegations of widespread electoral fraud marred the election. All opposition candidates have filed appeals to the Central Election Commission, calling for invalidated results. Most Belarusians did not believe the official results either, and took to the streets to protest peacefully. However, the police and military forces brutally cracked down the protests with batons, rubber bullets, and stun grenades. Only during the last month, over 9000 people all over the country were jailed, and then brutally beaten, tortured, and even raped. On September 1, the UN has officially [confirmed](#) “over 450 **documented** cases of torture and ill-treatment of people deprived of their liberty after the disputed presidential election on August 9 that led to mass protests and arrests.” Six people have been killed to date, with dozens still missing.

The US, EU, Great Britain, Ireland, Ukraine, Canada, and others have issued official statements condemning the Belarusian government of violence, as well as human and voter rights violations. Mr. Lukashenko is not recognized as a legitimate president by the international community.

Additionally to employing police violence tactics, the Lukashenko regime has restricted access to independent information sources, blocking non-governmental news websites and cutting Internet communication across the country for several days starting on election day August 9th and during

peaceful mass protests that happen every day for over a month in the cities and towns of Belarus. Most independent media websites remain shut down up to this day. According to Bloomberg News, the Lukashenko government used equipment manufactured by the U.S. company Sandvine Inc to deprive Belarusian citizens of their fundamental rights of access to Internet and information.

In 2006, the U.S. government placed sanctions on the Belarusian officials and prohibited U.S. companies from providing funds, goods, or services "for the benefit of Lukashenko or others engaged in actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions." The sanctions remain in full force today, you may see more information on prohibited transactions and penalties on the dedicated [page](#) of the US Treasury website. The US sanctions also expressly prohibit supplying funds, goods, or services to any third parties, if they would be then transferred or otherwise used by the state under the sanctions.

We, the Belarusian community worldwide, demand Sandvine Inc and Francisco Partners to:

1. Immediately stop any and all relations or transactions with the Belarusian government under Lukashenko, and ask you to investigate potential violations by Sandvine Inc. of the US sanctions and other laws as it provided its technology to the oppressive Lukashenko government.
2. Immediately withdraw and recall all supplied equipment, goods, funds, or other services that were used or will be used by the Lukashenko government or any third parties connected with it in any way.
3. We also urge you to help prevent this and similar technology from getting into the hands of non-democratic regimes, which could use it to limit society's access to independent sources of information.

We demand Sandvine Inc and Francisco Partners to publicly denounce Lukashenko's regime and to show the world that your company chooses to stand with Belarus and other nations that fight for democracy and freedom. We strongly believe that the prospect of having new democratic partners will far outweigh your company's profit from supplying your equipment to dictatorship regimes.

Please provide your response to this letter by Monday, September 14, 2020. We rely on clear and open communication with your company and strongly believe in your support of democratic values, as well as the prompt and complete resolution of this alarming precedent. If we do not receive any response, we will have no other choice other than to further exercise our rights in resolving this matter, including legislative investigations and related actions.

Sincerely,

*The Belarusian Community of the US
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