



President
of the Republic of Belarus

Minsk, June 24, 2019

**Address on the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the
Liberation of Belarus from the Nazi Invaders**

This year Belarus celebrates the 75th anniversary of the country's liberation from the Nazi invaders.

The Second World War considered to be one of the most cruel in the history of mankind became the Great Patriotic War for us. It disrupted every home and every family. During the years of occupation Belarus has lost the third of its population. Fascists constructed here over 260 death camps and other places of mass annihilation. Nevertheless, the spirit of Belarusian nation was not defeated.

Belarus did not give up. The largest partisan and underground movement in Europe was organized here. Due to selfless struggle of our people as well as all the peoples of the Soviet Union and the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition the enemy was defeated.

July 3 – the day of liberation of the city of Minsk became our national holiday – the Independence Day.

Courage and heroism of Belarusian people, its enormous contribution to the victory over the fascism has gained worldwide recognition. Belarus became one of the founding Member States of the United Nations.

Unfortunately, nowadays when the former allies in the fight against Nazism increasingly find themselves in a state of misunderstanding or confrontation with each other, the problem of preventing a new world war is becoming more acute.

I am convinced that we should seek for a new large-scale international dialogue to strengthen peace and overcome existing contradictions in relations between states. Belarus is ready to become a platform for discussing all constructive initiatives in the sphere of international security and development.

For the sake of the future we ought to keep in mind horrible lessons of the past, keep and pass to the next generations true history of the great feat of heroes and liberators. We should teach our children to appreciate life, respect other nations and cherish peace.

Since the ancient times, while welcoming each other, people would say: "May peace be upon you." The United Nations was created to maintain and to strengthen peace.

Together we can accomplish this historic mission!



Aleksandr Lukashenko