

Belarus, Russia and NATO: bringing Russia to NATO's eastern flank

A seminar on the implications of recent events in Belarus



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In August 2020, Alexander Lukashenko, the long-standing president of Belarus, lost the election to Svyatlana Tsikhanouska, the wife of a presidential candidate who had been jailed for satirical attacks on the incumbent. Despite this, Lukashenko claimed victory. Huge crowds turned out in Minsk and other cities to demand that the falsified result be set aside. Lukashenko and his regime brutally suppressed these protests but demands for his removal remain.

On 23 May 2021, a Ryanair plane flying from Athens to Vilnius was forced to land in Minsk whereupon one of the passengers, Raman Pratasevich, was arrested. The incident caused international outrage being referred to as an 'attack on democracy' and an 'international scandal.' The EU closed its airspace and airports to Belarusian airlines, and assured Belarusians that they would not be 'left alone.' Numerous protests in neighbouring countries have followed, calling on the EU to impose firmer sanctions on the Lukashenko regime.

Whether the Western response is adequate is debatable, especially since Lukashenko abandoned his semi-independence from Putin's regime. This was a great boon for the Kremlin now granted open slather for its military in Belarus, presenting a new threat to the eastern flank of NATO, and the northern border of Ukraine.

In this seminar, the panellists will discuss the adequacy of the response from the international community and consider the security implications for NATO and Ukraine.

Details

Wednesday 16 June
12:30 – 2:00pm

RSSS Building,
146, Ellery Crescent
Level 1
Lectorial 2 (Room 1.23)

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Speakers

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