

URGENT ACTION

MAN SENTENCED TO DEATH IN BELARUS

A 25-year-old man was sentenced to death in eastern Belarus on 14 June for the murder of a student on 20 September 2012.

Alyaksandr Haryunou was sentenced to death by a court in the city of Homel on 14 June for the murder of a student on 20 September 2012. According to the police, he stabbed her 102 times and she died at the scene. In court Alyaksandr Haryunou explained that the student, Nataliya Emyalyanchykava, had insulted him in front of his friends, and refused to apologize. Alyaksandr Haryunou had previously been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for fatally wounding his mother's partner.

His mother told journalists on 12 June that she hoped he would be sentenced to 25 years in prison: "He hasn't seen anything good in his life and now this, they are asking for his death. His father was killed when he was a child and they never found the killers. Yes he killed my partner, but he was defending his girlfriend who had a conflict with my partner."

According to local press, Alyaksandr Haryunou had been diagnosed with a personality disorder. He made no effort to defend himself and remained silent after the verdict was pronounced. A psychiatric examination concluded that he was competent to stand trial. During a court hearing on 12 June he admitted his guilt and asked forgiveness from the victim's mother. He has appealed the sentence to the Supreme Court.

Belarus is the last country in Europe which still carries out executions: in 2012 it executed three men. Three death sentences have been pronounced so far in 2013: Rygor Yuzepchuk was sentenced on 24 April, and a further death sentence was pronounced recently in Hrodna.

Please write immediately in Belarusian, Russian, English or your own language:

- Urging President Lukashenka to commute immediately the death sentence of Alyaksandr Haryunou
- Urging him to commute immediately all the death sentences in Belarus;
- Calling on him to establish an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 JULY 2013 TO:

President

Alyaksandr Lukashenka
ul. Karla Marxa 38
220016 Minsk
Belarus
Fax: +375 17 226 0610
+375 17 222 3872
Email: contact@president.gov.by

**Salutation: Dear President
Lukashenka**

And copies to:

Chair of the Supreme Court of Belarus
Valentin Sukalo
Lenina 28
220030 Minsk
Belarus
Fax: +375 17 3271225
Email: scjustrb@pmrb.gov.by

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In Belarus, death sentences are often imposed after unfair trials which include forced confessions; they are implemented in strict secrecy and without giving adequate notice to the inmates themselves, their families or legal representatives. The authorities refuse to return the bodies of those executed to their relatives or even tell them where they are buried; and executions are carried out despite requests from the UN Human Rights Committee to the government not to carry out the executions. The Human Rights Committee and others have found that the application of the death penalty in Belarus violates the human rights of those convicted and their families.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. It violates the right to life, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

Name: Alyksandr Haryunou

Gender m/f: m

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