

EXTERNAL

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Death penalty

11 February 1998

BELARUS Ihar Mironaw, aged 22

On 23 January 1998, Ihar Mironaw was sentenced to death by the Vitebsk Regional Court. He is thought to be appealing to the Supreme Court of Belarus. If the Supreme Court refuses to uphold his appeal against his death sentence, his only chance will be to appeal to President Lukashenka to grant clemency.

Although it is not known how long the process of appeals take it is unlikely any more information will be forthcoming about this case and it will, therefore, be the only possibility to influence the outcome.

Although very little is known about Ihar Mironaw's case he was reportedly found guilty for the murder of a family and charged with premeditated, aggravated murder.

Ihar Mironaw is believed to be the first person to be sentenced to death in Belarus this year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 22 January President Lukashenka reported that 30 executions had been carried out in Belarus in 1997 and that, since he had come to power in 1994, he had pardoned only one person facing the death penalty.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Russian, English or your own language:

- urging the Supreme Court of Belarus to uphold Ihar Mironaw's appeal against the death sentence passed against him on 23 January 1998;
- asking the Procurator General to protest at the death sentence passed against Ihar Mironaw;
- expressing deep sympathy with the victims of violent crime and their families, but referring to the 1988 Study for the United Nations on the death penalty which concluded that the death penalty was not an effective deterrent for violent crimes;
- expressing concern at the very high rate of executions in Belarus during 1997.

APPEALS TO:

The Chairman of the Supreme Court of Belarus, Mehislau GRIB
Respublika Belarus
220030 g. Minsk
Ul. Lenina, 28
Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Belarus
Predsedatelyu GRIBU M.
BELARUS

Telegrams: Predsedatelyu, Verkhovny Sud, Minsk, Belarus

Salutation: Dear Chairman

The Procurator General of Belarus, Aleh BOZHELKO
Respublika Belarus
220050 g. Minsk
Ul. Internatsionalnaya, 22
Prokuratura Respubliki Belarus
Generalnomu Prokuroru

BOAHELKU A.
BELARUS

Telegrams: Generalnomu prokuoru, Minsk, Belarus
Faxes: + 375 172 264166
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr LUKASHENKA
Respublika Belarus
220010 g. Minsk
pl. Nezavisimosti, Apparat Prezidenta Respubliki Belarus
Prezidentu Respubliki Belarus, Lukashenka A.H
BELARUS
Faxes: + 375 172 235825 (if voice ask for fax)

The Head of the Department for Applications for Clemency and Citizenship at
the President's Administration, name not known
Respublika Belarus
220010 g. Minsk
Apparat Prezidenta Respubliki Belarus
Otdel po voprosam pomilovaniya i grazhdanstva
Zaveduyushchemu otdelom
(i.e. to the Head of department)
BELARUS
Faxes: + 375 172 235825 (if voice ask for fax)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Ivan ANTONOVICH
Respublika Belarus
220030 g.Minsk
Ul. Lenina, 19
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del
Respubliki Belarus
Ministry ANTONOVICH I.
BELARUS
Faxes: + 375 172 274521

and to diplomatic representatives of BELARUS accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 March 1998.