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Further information on EXTRA 21/02 (EUR 49/003/2002, 15 March 2002) - Death Penalty

BELARUSValery Ignatovich (m) Maksim Malik (m) Aleksey Guz (m) Sergei Savushkin (m)

All four men named above were sentenced to lengthy prison terms on 14 March. It had been expected that they would be sentenced to death and quickly executed.

The Minsk Regional Court sentenced Valery Ignatovich and Maksim Malik to life imprisonment for kidnapping and murdering the Russian Public Television cameraman, Dmitry Zavadsky, in July 2000. The court sentenced their accomplices, Sergei Savushkin and Aleksey Guz, to 12 and 25 years' imprisonment respectively.

Amnesty International remains concerned about the fairness of the trial and the alleged involvement of presidential administration officials in this and other "disappearances".

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.