

PUBLIC

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15 July 1999

Further information on UA 267/98 (EUR 49/09/98, 13 October 1998) - Death Penalty / Fear of Imminent Execution

BELARUS Anton Borisovich Bondarenko (_____)

Amnesty International has learned from his mother that Anton Borisovich Bondarenko's request for clemency has been rejected, and he faces imminent execution. He was sentenced to death on 22 June 1998 by the Minsk Regional Court for premeditated aggravated murder. At the time of the murder he was 19 years old.

His mother has not been told when the execution will take place. She told Amnesty International that she visits the prison where Anton Borisovich Bondarenko is being held every day to see if he is still alive. Information on executions is classed as a state secret in Belarus, and executions are carried out in secret, usually by shooting. Relatives of the executed person are sent a death certificate, but are not told the date or place of execution. They are not entitled to the body, which is buried within prison grounds in an unmarked grave.

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

- urging the Clemency Commission and President Lukashenka to grant clemency to Anton Borisovich Bondarenko and to all other prisoners on death row in Belarus and commute their sentences;
- expressing deep sympathy for the victims of violent crime and their families, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments and is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging the Belarussian authorities to declare an official moratorium on executions, particularly while its application for membership of the Council of Europe is pending, so as to demonstrate intent to move towards the abolition of the death penalty - a commitment required of all states admitted to the Council;
- calling for official and comprehensive statistics on the application of the death penalty in Belarus to be made public.

APPEALS TO: (Please mark all appeals "URGENT - SROCHNO")

Since the telephone system in Belarus is unreliable, fax tones may be difficult to obtain. Please keep trying (it can help to dial slowly). Additionally, you may have most success ringing during office hours as fax machines are sometimes turned off at the end of the working day (+3 hours GMT). If a voice answers, repeat "fax" until connected.

The President of Belarus, Alyaksandr LUKASHENKA

Respublika Belarus

220016 g. Minsk

ul. Karla Marksa, 38, Administratsia Prezidenta Respubliki Belarus

Presidentu Lukashenka A.H

BELARUS

Telegrams: Presidentu Lukashenka, Minsk, Belarus

Faxes: + 375 172 22 38 72 / 26 06 10

Salutation: Dear President

The Head of the Department for Applications for Clemency and Citizenship at
the President's Administration, Vladimir Samusev

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The Chairman of the Supreme Court of Belarus, Valentin Sukalo

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Salutation: Dear Mr Sukalo

Chair of Commission for Human Rights of the Commonwealth of Independent
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The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Ivan ANTONOVICH

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and to diplomatic representatives of Belarus accredited to your country.
PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.