

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 49/14/97

9 October 1997

Further information on UA 245/97 (EUR 49/09/97, 30 July 1997) and follow-ups (EUR 49/11/97, 8 August; EUR 49/12/97, 21 August; EUR 49/13/97, 12 September) - Prisoners of Conscience / Fear of ill-treatment / Health concern

BELARUSPavel Sheremet, journalist
Dmitry Zavadsky, journalist
Yaroslav Ovchinnikov, driver
Anatoly Adamchuk, journalist
Aleksandr Oganov, journalist
Valery Astashkin, journalist
Uladzimir Kostsin, journalist

According to news reports, television journalist Pavel Sheremet was released from detention on 8 October 1997, on the condition that he does not leave Belarus. The charges against him and the other journalists arrested are still standing.

Pavel Sheremet was reported as saying that he had not been beaten since his arrest but that he had been denied television or radio whilst in detention and at times his food supplies had been reduced. According to reports, the Belorussian authorities prevented the first two defence lawyers chosen by Pavel Sheremet from defending him by withdrawing the licence of one lawyer and threatening the same action for the second lawyer.

Many thanks to all who have taken action on this case. A final round of appeals would be welcome, after which this UA will close. Anyone who is able to, please send a fax/express or airmail letter in Russian, English or in your own language:

- welcoming the release of Pavel Sheremet from detention, but calling for the charges against him, Dmitry Zavadsky and Yaroslav Ovchinnikov to be dropped;
- calling for the charges against the other four journalists to be dropped if they are simply due to their having sought to exercise their right to freedom of expression.

APPEALS TO:

The President of Belarus, Alyaksandr Lukashenka
Respublika Belarus
220010 g. Minsk
pl. Nezavisimosti
Apparat Prezidenta Respubliki Belarus
Prezidentu Respubliki Belarus Lukashenka A.H
BELARUS

Faxes: + 375 172 23-58-25

Salutation: Dear President

The Procurator General of Belarus, Aleh Bozhelko
Respublika Belarus
220050 g. Minsk
Ul. Internatsionalnaya, 22
Prokuratura Respubliki Belarus
Generalnomu prokuroru BOZHELKU A.
BELARUS

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Ivan Antonovich
Respublika Belarus
220030 g.Minsk
Ul. Lenina, 19
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Respubliki Belarus
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Fax numbers provided may also be telephone lines, therefore please request "fax" if answered by a person.

and to diplomatic representatives of Belarus accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.