

Update to Public Appeal

Belarus: Public Appeal. Prisoners of Conscience: Mikalay Astreyka, Tsimafoy Dranchuk, Enira Branizkaya, Alyaksandr Shalayka, 14 Aug 2006 (AI Index: EUR 49/012/2006) <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engEUR490122006>

Tsimafoy Dranchuk, a member of the independent election monitoring group, Initiative Partnership, was released on parole from a correctional facility in Minsk on 26 December 2006. Tsimafoy Dranchuk was the last remaining member of the group to still be in prison. Following his release he was able to spend time with his son, who was born while he was in prison.

Background

Tsimafoy Dranchuk was sentenced to one year imprisonment following his arrest on 21 February 2006, along with three other members of the group, Mikalay Astreyka, Enira Branizkaya and Alyaksandr Shalayka. All four were sentenced on 4 August, according to Article 193, Part 2 of the Belarusian Criminal Code, for 'organizing and running an unregistered organization that infringes the rights of citizens'.

Enira Branizkaya and Alyaksandr Shalayka were released on 21 August, having served the full term of their six-month sentences. Mikalay Astreyka was conditionally released on 17 November, before the end of his two-year sentence.

Many thanks for campaigning on this case - no further action is required. Please now focus on campaigning for other Belarusian cases, including Zmitser Dashkevich and Alyaksandr Kazulin.