

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 49/05/97

17 June 1997

Further information on UA 266/96 (EUR 49/05/96, 18 November 1996) and follow-up (EUR 49/02/97, 14 March 1997; EUR 49/03/97, 7 May 1997.) - Ill-treatment possible prisoners of conscience

BELARUS Gregory Kishko

According to further information, Gregory Kishko, an artist, remains in detention following his arrest on 23 March 1997 at a demonstration in Minsk. Gregory Kishko reportedly was beaten by police officers during the demonstration.

Amnesty International has heard that Aleksandr Bondarev has been released from detention pending trial for "violence against the state" after he allegedly threatened a police officer with a stick. Human rights organizations in Belarus maintain he was defending himself against an attack by police officers.

Background information

Amnesty International is concerned at the apparent pattern of ill-treatment and imprisonment of members of the opposition during peaceful strikes and demonstrations in Belarus, and has repeatedly raised this with the Belorussian authorities.

Human rights organizations report that widespread demonstrations throughout Belarus on 23 March resulted in numerous arrests, detentions and fines. Police officers reportedly arrested 30 people following a protest organized against plans to send certain students for their community service to areas of Belarus which had been affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Those arrested reportedly included the elderly, and young boys and girls. Reports also state that a 10 year old boy was detained by police for wearing a red and white bandage around his head which resembled the prohibited former national flag.

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

- calling for the immediate release of any demonstrators held in police custody solely for exercising their right to freedom of assembly;
- seeking assurances that no-one in future will be subjected to ill-treatment or imprisonment by the police solely on the grounds of their political beliefs or for peacefully expressing their right to freedom of assembly;
- urging the authorities to initiate prompt and impartial investigations into all allegations of ill-treatment of demonstrators by the police and to bring to justice anyone found responsible;
- urging the authorities to provide compensation to the victims of police abuse and to make all law enforcement officials aware that torture and ill-treatment are prohibited in any circumstances under the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Belarus is a party as a successor state of the USSR.

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

Telegrams: Prezidentu Lukashenko, Minsk, Belarus

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

Faxes: +375 172 26-41-66

Telegrams: Generalnomu prokuroru, Minsk, Belarus

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Minister Agolets
Respublika Belarus
g. Minsk
Ul. Urytskaha, 5
Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del Respubliki Belarus
Ministru Agoletsu
BELARUS

Faxes: +375 172 26-12-47

Telegrams: Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del, Minsk, Belarus

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Ivan Antonovich
Respublika Belarus
220030 g.Minsk
Ul. Lenina, 19
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BELARUS

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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 29 July 1997.