

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 49/11/97

8 August 1997

Further information on UA 245/97 (EUR 49/09/97, 30 July 1997) - Prisoners of conscience

BELARUS Pavel Sheremet

Dmitry Zavadsky

Yaroslav Ovchinnikov - (released)

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On August 7 1997, Yaroslav Ovchinnikov was freed from detention in Belarus. It is not clear at present whether criminal charges against him still apply.

Pavel Sheremet and Dmitry Zavadsky remain in detention pending trial. They are reportedly charged with violating Article 80 of the Belarussian Criminal code under which illegal border-crossing is punishable by imprisonment of up to five years. Additionally, it has also been reported that charges of espionage may be brought against the crew.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Russian or your own language:**

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Pavel Sheremet and Dmitry Zavadsky as prisoners of conscience, detained for their professional non-violent activities as members of the media;
- welcoming the release of Yaroslav Ovchinnikov, but urging that all criminal charges against the three men are immediately dropped;
- seeking assurances that in the future no one will be subjected to ill-treatment or imprisonment solely on the grounds of their conscientiously held beliefs and for peacefully exercising 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

**Telegrams: Prezidentu Lukashenka, Minsk, 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

**Telegrams: Generalnomu prokuroru, Minsk, Belarus**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator General**

Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Agolets, first name not known

Respublika Belarus

g. Minsk

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Ul. Urytskaha, 5  
Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del Respubliki Belarus  
Ministru Agoletsu  
BELARUS

**Telegrams: Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del, Minsk, Belarus**

**Faxes: +375 172 26-12-47**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Ivan Antonovich  
Respublika Belarus  
220030 g.Minsk  
Ul. Lenina, 19  
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Respubliki Belarus  
Ministru Antonovich I.  
BELARUS  
**Faxes: + 375 172 27-45-21**

**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.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 September 1997.