

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 49/20/99

2 September 1999

**Further information on UA 101/99 (EUR 49/10/99, 10 May 1999) - Fear of Torture or Ill-treatment / Possible "disappearance"**

**BELARUSYury Zakharenko**

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Leading opposition politician Yury Zakharenko has now been missing for four months, and Amnesty International fears he may be in incommunicado detention, where he could be at risk of torture.

Oleg Volchek, the head of a commission set up by the Belarussian opposition to investigate the former Minister of the Interior's sudden disappearance, said in August that there was evidence that he had been detained on Zhykovsky street in Minsk and forced into a car. The authorities have been reluctant to investigate, and Oleg Volchek is now being prosecuted in connection with his opposition activities.

Yury Zakharenko's family have not heard from him since 7 May, when he reportedly telephoned his daughter to say he was on his way home at about 8pm. His wife believes that he has been arrested by the government for his involvement in the unofficial presidential elections, that took place on 16 May, that were organised by opposition groups in protest against President Lukashenka.

On 31 August his mother, Ulyana Zakharenko, appealed to President Lukashenka in an open letter entitled "Give My Son Back", in which she wrote: "I wish somebody would tell me that Yura has not been murdered or tortured to death. I cannot sleep, cannot live my life without him."

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

- urging that the whereabouts of Yury Zakharenko be immediately established and made known to his family, and that if he is in police custody he be given immediate access to his family, and to legal representation;
- urging that any criminal charges against him are made public;
- urging that he is protected from any form of ill-treatment.

**APPEALS TO:**

**Since the telephone system in Belarus is unreliable, fax tones may be difficult to obtain. Please keep trying (it can help to dial slowly). You may have most success during office hours, as fax machines are sometimes turned off at the end of the working day (+2 hours GMT). If a voice answers, repeat "fax" until connected.**

The President of Belarus, Alyaksandr Lukashenka  
Respublika Belarus, 220010 g. Minsk, pl. Nezavisimosti  
Apparat Prezidenta Respubliki Belarus  
Prezidentu Respubliki Belarus Lukashenka A.H  
**Telegrams: Prezidentu Lukashenko, Minsk, Belarus**  
**Faxes: + 375 172 23 58 25 (office hours only)**  
**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.  
**Telegrams:Generalnomu prokuroru, Minsk, Belarus**  
**Faxes:+ 375 172 26 41 66**  
**Salutation:Dear Procurator General**

Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Yuriy Sivakow  
Respublika Belarus, g. Minsk, Ul. Urytskaha, 5  
Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del Respubliki Belarus, Ministru Sivakowu  
**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.  
**Faxes:+ 375 172 27 45 21 / 23 99 18**

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 31 October 1999.