

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 49/31/99

25 November 1999

Further information on UA 101/99 (EUR 49/10/99, 10 May 1999) and follow-up (EUR 49/20/99 2 September 1999) - Possible "disappearance"

BELARUS Yury Zakharenko

The former Minister of the Interior, Yury Zakharenko, has now been missing for more than six and a half months. He "disappeared" at the start of the unofficial presidential elections in May 1999. Amnesty International fears he may have been deliberately targeted by the authorities to silence a prominent and outspoken member of Belarus's peaceful opposition.

Since he "disappeared" there has been very little new information about his fate. His wife, Olga Zakharenko, has reportedly been repeatedly threatened and intimidated. At the start of October 1999 she reportedly stated in a radio interview that she has been constantly subjected to anonymous threatening telephone calls and also has been warned to leave the country.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in 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;
- urging that his wife, Olga Zakharenko, and two daughters be protected from any intimidation.

APPEALS TO:

The telephone system in Belarus is unreliable and fax tones may therefore be difficult to get. Please keep trying (it can help to dial slowly), particularly during office hours as fax machines are sometimes turned off at the end of the working day (+3 hours GMT). If a voice answers, repeat "fax" until connected.

The President of Belarus, Alyaksandr LUKASHENKA

Respublika Belarus

220016 g. Minsk

ul. Karla Marksa, 38, Administratsia Prezidenta Respubliki Belarus

Presidentu Lukashenka A.H

BELARUS

Telegrams: Presidentu Lukashenka, Minsk, Belarus

Faxes: + 375 172 22 38 72 / 26 06 10

Salutation: Dear President

The Procurator General of Belarus, Aleh BOZHELKO

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Generalnomu Prokuroru

BOZHELKU A., BELARUS

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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:

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Faxes: + 375 172 27 45 21
Salutation: Dear Minister

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 7 January 2000.