

Sender:

President
Alexander Lukashenko
ul. Karla Marksa, 38
220016 Minsk
BELARUS

Dear President Lukashenko,

On 24 November 2011, Ales Bialiatski, Chair of Belarusian Human Rights Center Viasna and Vice-President of the International Federation for Human Rights, was sentenced by a court in Minsk to four and a half years in prison for "concealment of income on a large scale".

I believe his sentence is politically motivated and intended to obstruct his legitimate work as a human rights defender. Belarusian and international human rights organisations regard Ales Bialiatski as a prisoner of conscience and are calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

I want to remind you of your responsibility to protect human rights defenders, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, and urge you to release Ales Bialiatski immediately and unconditionally.

Finally I urge you to stop the persecution of human rights defenders, journalists and dissidents in Belarus and to release all prisoners of conscience immediately and unconditionally.

Yours sincerely,

by fax to: +375 17 226 06 10 oder +375 17 222 38 72
by email to: contact@president.gov.by