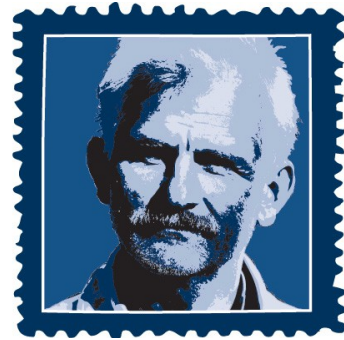


President Alyaksandr Lukashenka
ul. Karla Marxa 38
220016 Minsk
Belarus



Dear President,

*I am writing to you to raise my concern for **Ales Bialiatski**, a prominent human rights defender in Belarus and the chairman of the organization Human Rights Centre Viasna. He was arrested and imprisoned for four and a half years in 2011 for “concealment of income on a large scale”. Amnesty International believes that his imprisonment is intended to prevent him from working to defend human rights and considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.*

Human Rights Centre Viasna was derecognized by the Belarusian authorities in 2003 and the Belarusian government prevented Ales Bialiatski from holding money inside the country, therefore, he had no choice but to use his personal bank accounts in Lithuania and Poland to support Viasna’s human rights work.

I am alarmed that Ales Bialiatski did not receive a fair trial. Some of the evidence presented against him was unauthenticated or anonymous and the questioning of some witnesses did not relate to the charges.

I strongly urge you to release Ales Bialiatski immediately and unconditionally and to drop all charges against him.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,