



President of the Republic of Belarus
Alyaksandr Lukashenka
Vul. Karl Marksa 38
220016 Minsk
Belarus

Brussels, 23 June 2016

Mr President Lukashenka,

We, Members of the European Parliament, would like to address you with an urgent appeal regarding the death sentence in Belarus.

Referring to the European Council Conclusions on the Belarus of February 2016 condemning the application of death penalty in Belarus and urging Belarusian authorities to set up a moratorium, we are deeply concerned by yet another person risking to be executed in the country. As we have learnt, on 6 May 2016 the Supreme Court of Belarus upheld the death sentence passed by Minsk regional Court in February to Mr Siarhey Khmialeyski, who was found guilty of double murder. It will be already a third sentence pronounced by Belarusian authorities in the period of 2015/2016.

We acknowledge the fact that Mr Siarhey Khmialeyski was trialed for very serious crimes and convey our deepest condolences to the relatives of the victims. Nevertheless, the capital punishment is regarded by the EU as an inhuman and a cruel punishment, which disregards and denies human dignity and integrity and, therefore, should be opposed under any circumstances. We would like to regard here the reference in the Criminal Code of Belarus, which defines an alternative punishment to the death penalty to be life imprisonment.

Belarus is the only country in Europe, which still has not abolished and periodically is applying death penalty. We therefore urge you to halt all the planned executions in Belarus and to immediately reverse the death sentence of Mr Siarhey Khmialeuski and all the others currently on the death row in Belarus. We call on the Belarusian authorities to respect a fundamental right to life and join the global moratorium on death penalty as a first step to its full abolition.

Sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius
Jasenko Selimović
Tibor Szanyi
Bart Staes
Milan Zver

Marietje Schaake
Pavel Telička
Jozo Radoš
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