

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

His Excellency President
Alyaksandr G. Lukashenka
u. Karla Marxa 38
220016 MINSK
Belarus Republic

Nieuw Vennep,

Your Excellency,

The international newsmedia focussed on the sad fate of

MYKALAU STATKEVICH

who participated in the presidential elections in December 2010. After the presidential elections there were big demonstrations, which were scattered with a lot of violence.

In May 2011 Mykalau Statkevich was sentenced to six years hard labour on the charge of 'organizing mass-disorder', although there is no proof for this accusation whatsoever. Shortly after his transfer to Prison 4 in January 2012 the prison director stated that Mykalau Statkevich had developed suicidal tendencies. This statement of a prison director is often used as a pretext in case a prisoner would die due to severe torturing.

The most arbitrary trial, conviction and imprisonment of Mykalau Statkevich seriously damage your and your government's image in the international public opinion. The same holds good for the fact that his wife is only allowed to visit him for four hours per year, and to speak to him on the phone only once a month.

That's why I most urgently beg you to reconsider Mykalau Statkevich sentence and to order his unconditional release, as he only peacefully expressed his political views which is quite normal during presidential elections.

I wish you wisdom and courage and do hope that you will be so kind to take my request into serious consideration. Thanking you in advance for your kind attention and looking forward to hear from you on the subject, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

c.c.: U.N. Council on human rights
European Parliament