

SCHOLARS AT RISK

N E T W O R K

President Alyaksandr Lukashenka
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BELARUS

Via fax to: +375 17 226 06 10 and +375 17 222 38 72

February 1, 2011

RE: Dr. Alyaksandr Fyaduta

Dear President Lukashenka:

I write on behalf of the Scholars at Risk Network to express our grave concern for Dr. Alyaksandr Fyaduta, a scholar, journalist and lecturer at the European Humanities University, who is currently imprisoned. We respectfully urge you to intervene to ensure his well-being pending his earliest release, including ensuring immediate and regular access to family, to legal counsel of his choosing and to medical treatment.

Scholars at Risk is an international network of over 240 universities and colleges in 30 countries dedicated to promoting academic freedom and its constituent freedoms of thought, opinion, expression, association and travel. In cases like Dr. Fyaduta's involving alleged infringement of these freedoms, Scholars at Risk investigates hoping to clarify and resolve matters favorably.

According to reports, Dr. Fyaduta was arrested at his home on December 20, 2010. Dr. Fyaduta has reportedly been charged with Article 293, mass riot, an accusation which stems from Prof. Fyaduta's alleged involvement in a protest that took place in Minsk, Belarus in the aftermath of the most recent presidential election. Scholars at Risk understands that, since his arrest, he has been held in custody without access to legal counsel or to medical care. This suggests apparent disregard of international standards of due process, fair trial and detention as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Belarus is signatory. Most alarmingly, Scholars at Risk is concerned about the treatment of the injuries Dr. Fyaduta reportedly sustained during the protest and his severe diabetic condition which requires daily medical care. In light of this, his detention without access to counsel or adequate medical support would appear to constitute a reckless disregard of his health and well-being.

We respectfully urge you to ensure that Belarus' obligations under international law are upheld with regard to Dr. Fyaduta, and that you intervene to ensure his well-being.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this important matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Quinn
Executive Director

Cc:

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