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HELSINKI FOUNDATION for HUMAN RIGHTS**

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Warsaw, February 23, 2007

**To:
President of the Republic of Belarus
Mr. Alexander Lukashenko**

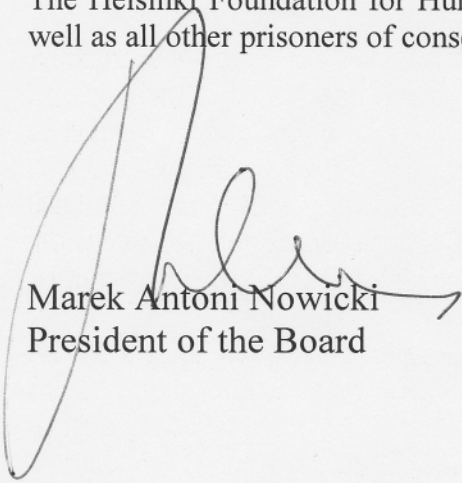
Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Warsaw, Poland), let me express my concern over the situation of Alexander Kozulin and other prisoners of conscience in Belarus.

Alexander Kozulin has been imprisoned since March 2006. He was charged with „malignant hooliganism” as well as “the organization of group activities that breach public order” and sentenced to five and a half years’ imprisonment. In our opinion, Alexander Kozulin has in fact been punished for his opposition activities. Both charges against Kozulin, as well as the trial and conditions of his imprisonment, violate basic human rights guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ratified by Belarus. For this reason Amnesty International has declared him a prisoner of conscience.

At the end of 2006 Alexander Kozulin went on hunger strike for 54 days to protest against repression by the Belarus authorities. At the moment he is severely malnourished. He is in need of specialized medical care in order to recover from his fasting, but according to our sources the Belarus authorities are not allowing either a medical expert or Red Cross medical personnel to visit him.

The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights appeals to you to release Alexander Kozulin as well as all other prisoners of conscience in Belarus.


Marek Antoni Nowicki
President of the Board

