

Minsk, 7 December 2009

To the attention of

*Delegates of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
Representatives of International Networks and Non-Governmental Organisations
Representatives of the EU Institutions and Governments of the EU Member-States and the
Eastern Partnership Countries*

Dear colleagues and friends,

We would like to inform you that on 3 December 2009, Tatsiana Shaputska, participant of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Brussels, was expelled from the Belarusian State University, Faculty of Law Studies. According to our sources, this action was undertaken by the University administration under harsh pressure exercised by the Committee of State Security (KGB). Official reasons for the dismissal of the student were named as her poor study records; however the real cause is her participation in the Forum in Brussels.

In an open letter addressed to the rector of the Belarusian State University, Mr Ablamejka, and the deputy rector for education and social affairs Mr Klyunia, group of Civil Society Forum delegates named these repressive measures as inadequate and not constructive that show the negative attitude of the University administration to the participation of Belarus, and the University itself, in the Eastern Partnership programmes (see. <http://eurobelarus.info/content/blogcategory/50/107/>)

This fact also could be recognized as a demonstration of Belarusian authorities' approach towards Civil Society and puts in doubt readiness and ability of Belarusian authorities to constructive participation in Eastern Partnership programme.

We are appealing to you to show solidarity with Tatsiana (her e-mail address is info@mfront.net) and support her by sending protest letters to the Belarusian State University (Babrujskaya Str. 5a, 220000 Minsk) and the Ministry of Education of Belarus (Savetskaya Str. 9, 220010 Minsk), so that she has an opportunity to continue her studies.

Thank you in advance!

Participants of the Civil Society Forum and Representatives of Belarusian Civil Society Organisations

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<i>Ulad Vialichka</i>	<i>International Consortium EUROBELARUS</i>
<i>Vasil Sankovich</i>	<i>Belarusian Association of Regional Development</i>
<i>Iryna Sukhi</i>	<i>NGO "Ecohome"</i>
<i>Viktar Karnienka</i>	<i>Movement "For Freedom"</i>
<i>Siarhej Drazdouski</i>	<i>NGO "Republican Association of Wheelchair Users"</i>
<i>Vitali Silitski</i>	<i>Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies</i>
<i>Dzianis Melyantsou</i>	<i>Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies</i>
<i>Tatsiana Hatsura</i>	<i>Belarusian Helsinki Committee</i>
<i>Ulad Kobets</i>	<i>Charter'97, Civil campaign European Belarus</i>
<i>Yaraslau Bekish</i>	<i>The Green Network</i>
<i>Katsyaryna Przybylska</i>	<i>Belarusian Schuman Society</i>
<i>Siarhei Matskevich</i>	<i>NGO Assembly of Belarus</i>
<i>Iryna Vidanova</i>	<i>"34 Multimedia magazine"</i>

<i>Sviatlana Karaliova</i>	<i>National Council of Youth and Children Organizations RADA</i>
<i>Zhanna Litvina</i>	<i>Belarusian Association of Journalists</i>
<i>Dmitry Karpievich</i>	<i>Public Union "Education Center "POST"</i>
<i>Siarhei Varankevich</i>	<i>NGO "Civil Forum"</i>
<i>Andrei Vardamatski</i>	<i>NOVAK Sociological Laboratory</i>
<i>Volha Stuzhynskaya</i>	<i>Office for Democratic Belarus</i>
<i>Andrei Yahorau</i>	<i>Humanitarian Technologies Agency</i>
<i>Alena Tankachova</i>	<i>Foundation for Legal Technologies Development</i>
<i>Volha Smalianka</i>	<i>Foundation for Legal Technologies Development</i>
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