



7 January 2011

**HE Alexander Lukashenko**  
President of Belarus

Mr President:

I am addressing you to reiterate our call for an end to the continued imprisonment and the release of leaders and members of the political parties and organisations arbitrarily arrested following the presidential elections of 19 December, among them presidential candidates Mikalai Statkevich, from our own member party in Belarus, and Alyaksei Mihalevich, Andrei Sannikov and Vladimir Neklyayev, a matter that remains of utmost concern to member parties of the Socialist International worldwide.

The Socialist International once again urges you to ensure that those arrested whilst exercising their democratic rights are released immediately. This is particularly vital in the case of those who are in urgent need of medical treatment and whose continued detention seriously endangers their health.

We also ask you to investigate the irregularities during the election count reported by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and to enable the re-opening of the offices of that organisation in Minsk.

Our International concurs with all those in Belarus who share the view that only through real and effective democracy, in which citizens' voices are truly heard, can prosperity and stability be achieved in your country.

Yours sincerely,

Luis Ayala  
Secretary General