

# END EXECUTIONS IN BELARUS

Belarus is the last country in Europe and in the former Soviet Union that is still carrying out executions. By abolishing the death penalty, the Belarusian authorities will remove the last obstacle to making Europe a death penalty-free zone.

Prisoners on death row are told they will be executed only moments before the sentence is carried out. They are shot in the back of the head, and sometimes more than one bullet is required. The body is not handed over to the family, who are often informed only after the event, and the place of burial is kept secret causing further distress to relatives.

In Belarus, the use of the death penalty is compounded by a flawed criminal justice system. There is credible evidence that torture and other ill-treatment are used to extract confessions; condemned prisoners may not have access to effective appeal mechanisms; they and their relatives are subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment because of the secrecy surrounding the death penalty.

An immediate moratorium on the death penalty is a first step towards abolition.

## TAKE ACTION NOW

**SIGN THE POSTCARD BELOW AND SEND IT TO PRESIDENT ALYAKSANDR LUKASHENKA**

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**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



### Dear President Lukashenka,

Belarus is the last country in Europe and in the former Soviet Union that is still carrying out executions. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. It violates the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

### I URGE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO:

- Immediately establish a moratorium on all death sentences and executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty as provided by UN general Assembly Resolution 63/168, adopted on 18 December 2008.
- Commute without delay the sentences of all prisoners currently on death row to terms of imprisonment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Attach post  
stamp

### Alyaksandr Lukashenka

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