

President
Alyaksandr Lukashenka
Vul. Karla Marksa 38
220016 Minsk
Belarus

Dear Mr. President,

On 21 July 2017, the Mahiliou Regional Court sentenced Ihar Hershankou and Siamion Berazhnoy to death. The two men were found guilty of murdering six people between 2009 and 2015 with the aim of appropriating their property. They will appeal their death sentences before the Supreme Court in the coming weeks, but if the Supreme Court rejects their appeals and they will not be pardoned, they can be executed within months.

Belarus is the only country in Europe and Central Asia which continues to implement the death penalty. Whilst we are not seeking to downplay the seriousness of the crime, research shows that the death penalty does not have a unique deterrent effect and is the ultimate denial of human rights.

I am calling on the President to

- stop the planned executions and withdraw the death penalty as a sentencing option for Ihar Hershankou and Siamion Berazhnoy, and all others on death row; and
- introduce an immediate moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,