



INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION



Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko
President of the Republic of Belarus
38, ul. K. Marksa
220016 Minsk
Belarus

By e-mail: contact@president.gov.by

PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 19 January 2011

Dear President,

We have been informed by our affiliate, the BKDP, that the office of their branch organisation – the REP – was searched by national security committee officers on 14 January. The officers seized the equipment and trade union documentation. That action has interfered with or paralysed the activities of this independent union and is thus a flagrant violation of ILO Convention No. 87. Moreover, some of the trade union activists continue to be intimidated for exercising their civil rights in political elections.

We hereby strongly protest over the recent search and the interference of authorities into the activities of a union organisation and request immediate intervention to have the documentation and the equipment returned to the REP. The recent actions can only be considered as setting up further obstacles to the functioning of independent trade unions and signal that the government once again neglects the process of implementation of the recommendations of the ILO Commission of Inquiry to ensure that freedom of association is respected in the country. We will be informing the ILO and the European Union accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Burrow', written over a light blue grid background.

Sharan Burrow
General Secretary
ITUC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Monks', written over a light blue grid background.

John Monks
General Secretary
ETUC