



**Conseil économique
et social**

Distr.
GÉNÉRALE

E/CN.4/2005/G/11
16 décembre 2004

FRANÇAIS
Original: ANGLAIS

COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Soixante et unième session
Point 9 de l'ordre du jour provisoire

**QUESTION DE LA VIOLATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
ET DES LIBERTÉS FONDAMENTALES, OÙ QU'ELLE
SE PRODUISE DANS LE MONDE**

**Note verbale datée du 10 décembre 2004, adressée au Haut-Commissariat
des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente
du Bélarus auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève**

La Mission permanente de la République du Bélarus auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui transmettre la lettre jointe à la présente note, qui émane du Représentant permanent de la République du Bélarus auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève et se rapporte à la résolution 2004/14 de la Commission des droits de l'homme.

La Mission permanente de la République du Bélarus serait très reconnaissante au Haut-Commissariat de faire distribuer la lettre* jointe en tant que document officiel de la soixante et unième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme, au titre du point 9 de l'ordre du jour.

* Le texte de la lettre est reproduit en annexe tel qu'il a été reçu, dans la langue originale seulement.

Annexe



**ПАСТАЯННАЕ
ПРАДСТАЎНІЦТВА
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ ПРЫ
АДДЗЯЛЕННІ ААН І ІНШЫХ
МІЖНАРОДНЫХ
АРГАНІЗАЦЫЯХ У ЖЭНЕВЕ**

**MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU BELARUS
AUPRES DE L'OFFICE DES
NATIONS UNIES ET DES AUTRES
ORGANISATIONS
INTERNATIONALES A GENEVE**

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Geneva, 10 December 2004

Esteemed Mr. Adrian Severin,

With regard to your letter dated 23 September 2004 I would like to inform you of the following.

The Republic of Belarus has always been committed to the cause of human rights protection and expressed its willingness to a constructive and equal dialogue on all issues linked to human rights promotion.

Belarus is indeed cooperating with international human rights machinery. On the invitation of the Government, in 1997 the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression visited Belarus, in 2000 - the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. The most recent example is the visit of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to Belarus in August of this year. Belarus intends to continue interaction with these and other thematic procedures of the Commission on Human Rights.

The Commission's activity has been seriously undermined by excessive politicization of its agenda in recent years. This is a clear consequence of the abuse by some countries of human rights issues as a tool to achieve selfish political goals. We believe that the current practice of considering and adopting resolutions on specific countries does not correspond to the spirit of cooperation between states and the noble goals of this body.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Geneva

The CHR resolution 2004/14 is a manifest example of double standards approach and a mockery of the principles of the Commission on Human Rights. This resolution is entirely politically motivated and based on unjust biased allegations towards a sovereign country pursuing independent foreign policy. In a multilateral forum one cannot achieve any progress in discussing the human rights issues in the absence of a minimum degree of trust, mutual respect and fairness. It is not accidental that even despite the unprecedented pressure from the USA and the European Union the majority of CHR Members did not support that resolution.

The Republic of Belarus has repeatedly stated that we totally reject all the allegations and do not accept the resolution based thereon neither in letter nor in spirit. The content of the resolution has nothing to do with the tasks of international cooperation in the area of human rights.

As a matter of principle, the Republic of Belarus stands against the practice of considering country-specific resolutions, as this is counterproductive and runs counter to the very principle of a constructive and respectful dialogue based on universal, non-selective and objective approach. The overwhelming majority of UN member states share this position. It was impressively confirmed by the decision of the 59th session of the General Assembly not to consider a draft resolution on situation of human rights in Belarus presented by the US and EU.

In view of the above, the Republic of Belarus reiterates its firm rejection of the resolution 2004/14, including mandate of the Special Rapporteur contained therein.

I remain at your disposal for any questions or clarifications regarding this matter.

Sergei Aleinik
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

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