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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD**

**Note verbale dated 10 December 2004 from the Permanent Mission of
Belarus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office
of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to forward the attached letter of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva concerning Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/14.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus would highly appreciate circulation of the attached letter* as an official document of the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 9.

* Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex



**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
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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
