

The Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus
220016 Minsk, K.Marx ul., 38

The Department on the Affairs of Nationalities and Migration
Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus
220050 Minsk, Garadski val, 2

Of the citizen of the Republic of Belarus
Lukasik Natalya Mikhaylauna
My address is: Minsk reg.,
Miadzel distr., Narach,
Kastrychnitzkaja ul., 13-54

THE OPEN APPEAL
of the citizen of the Republic of Belarus Lukasik Natalya Mikhaylauna
about the cancellation of the permit of permanent residence for my husband Lukasik
Jaraslau Henryhavich

In September, 1999, my husband, Lukasik Jaraslau Henryhavich, citizen of the Republic of Poland, was granted an official permit of permanent residence in the Republic of Belarus by the decision of the Department of Internal Affairs of Miadzel City Executive Committee at the ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus. In September, 2004, the term of this permit was prolonged till September, 2008.

But on May, 8, 2007 the Department of Internal Affairs of Miadzel district cancelled this permit. The decision taken was said to be grounded on the fact of my husband's carrying out "the activity aimed at undermining the national security of the Republic of Belarus in the sphere of interdenominational relations".

As it is said in the document, the decision was taken according to clause 3, ch.1 and clause 2, ch. 2 of the article 54, cl.5, ch.2, art.28 of the law of the Republic of Belarus "On legal position of foreign citizens and people without citizenship in the Republic of Belarus". Jaraslau is given 30 days to leave the country. The term ends on June, 7.

This decision surprises us with being so ungrounded, shows deep disrespect towards my husband and also is an insult on all of our family. I want to enumerate some reasons why I find the decision of the Department of Internal Affairs of Miadzel district to be ungrounded. First of all, my husband did not commit any unlawful actions either in the sphere of interdenominational relations or, moreover, in the sphere of national security. There were no reports drawn up on my husband about breaking the law in these spheres, there were no court verdicts – nothing at all.

Secondly, the decision of the Department of Internal Affairs of Miadzel district was taken only according to some strange information from KGB. The decision taken in such a way infringes upon the rights of our family and children. My children and I are the citizens of the Republic of Belarus. Here I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we had an opportunity to

become the citizens of the Republic of Poland. But we meaningly decided that our children would be the citizens of the Republic of Belarus. We love Belarus and we cannot imagine our future without this country. Though a citizen of the Republic of Poland, my husband has spent a considerable part of his life in Belarus. He is a graduate of the Belarusian language department at Warsaw University and is an expert in this sphere. And he also does not want to leave Belarus.

We have been married since November, 1998. After our wedding before God and before people we have become one, inseparable till the end of our days. We have taken the decision to live in Belarus and to minister to the country sacrificially in spite of hindrances, difficulties and financial problems we had in our life. Our relatives and friends can witness/ prove it. We do not look upon the temporary things but go together during all the years of our married life.

The greatest joy for us was the birth of our three children: Jan in January of 1999, Martin in February of 2001 and Mira in April of 2003. We believe that children are a reward from God. We bring them up as patriots of our country. They speak Belarusian language every day and they are brought up on the Belarusian national heritage. We educate them on the basis of Christian values and principles. We teach our children to be the people with high moral standards, to be kind and just, we teach them to treat everyone with love and to help others.

I am convinced that happy and strong families are the foundation of society. I believe that family must be the main society's value. The state should take care of families instead of breaking them. I am against iniquity. This ungrounded decision either breaks our family or forces all of us to leave our homeland.

I have an impression that I am somewhere in the past. 70 years ago the lives of people depended on the information from NKVD. Has not anything changed up to these days? Can it be that nowadays such important decisions are taken without any investigation or trial?

I demand to answer me what the Department of Internal Affairs of Miadzel district was guided by in taking such a decision. Was it only the information from KGB? There is a presumption of innocence in our country and it means that only the court has the right to proclaim the person guilty. In which of our laws is it written that such a right is also granted to KGB?

I ask you to mind that the future of the family having many children is under the consideration. Each member of this family has the right to live in Belarus. So, taking all the above-mentioned facts as a ground, I demand to cancel the decision of the Department of Internal Affairs of Miadzel district of May, 8, 2007 "about the cancellation of the permit of permanent residence in the Republic of Belarus" for my husband, Lukasik Jaraslau Henryhavich. Enclosed is the letter written by our children. They ask you to allow their Dad to stay in Belarus and to allow our family to live here.