

Submitted by:

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To the attention of:

Mr Miklós Haraszti, Special Rapporteur on the
situation of human rights in Belarus
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Mr. Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the
situation of human rights defenders
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Minsk, Belarus

Allegation letter

(Updated information on the expulsion of Elena Tonkacheva)

Mrs Elena Tonkacheva Belarusian human rights defender and Chair of the board of the Legal Transformation Center (Lawtrend) has been denied the reduction of the ban on entry to Belarus.

In the early October 2016 Chair of the board of the Legal Transformation Center (Lawtrend) appealed to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus on the reduction of the ban on entry to Belarus and removed her from the list of persons banned to enter the country.

On October 19, 2016 Elena Tonkacheva received a reply from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus. It denied the reduction of the ban. In this document Ministry of Internal Affairs warned Elena Tonkacheva about criminal responsibility for attempting to enter or stay in Belarus in case of entry.

In January 2016 Elena Tonkacheva had already appealed to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus on the reduction of the ban on entry to Belarus and removed her from the list of persons banned entry to the country.

Reference:

Mrs Elena Tonkacheva, a prominent Belarusian human rights defender, has been expelled from Belarus on political grounds, a three-year entry ban.

Mrs Elena Tonkacheva is a Belarusian human rights defender and Chair of the board of the Legal Transformation Center (Lawtrend), a Minsk-based human rights NGO. Mrs Tonkacheva is a Russian national who has been residing in Belarus for the last 30 years. On 30 October 2014 she was notified by Belarusian authorities that her permanent residence permit would be annulled, and that she would be expelled from Belarus on the grounds of “protection of public order”. This administrative decision includes a 3-year ban on entry to Belarus. On 5 November 2014 the decision on the expulsion was confirmed by the Department of Internal Affairs of Pervomaiski District, requiring Mrs Tonkacheva to leave Belarus within 30 days. The expulsion was suspended during the appeal. The courts of first and second instances upheld the decision on expulsion. On February 21, 2015 Mrs Elena Tonkacheva has left Belarus.

[All the details on the situation of Belarusian human rights defender](#) on the website of the Legal Transformation Center (Lawtrend).

Sincerely, Olga Smolianko, Director of Legal Transformation Center (Lawtrend)