



The Republic of Belarus

Individual Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review

22nd Session of the UPR Working Group
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Right to life

*Enforced disappearances of the political opponents of the
authority*

Belarusian Documentation Center

Raisa Mikhailovskaia, Email raisa.mikhailovskaia@gmail.com

Tel +375 29 670 29 46

1. Introduction

1.1. Public Institution *Belarusian Documentation Center (BDC)* was registered on October 19, 2012 in Vilnius (Lithuania) on the initiative of the Belarusian human rights activists, lawyers, relatives of political prisoners.

1.2. According to Charter Public institution «Belarusian Documentation Center» is not seeking to profit legal entity with limited liability, with economic, financial and legal independence.

1.3. The main goals are: preservation of historical and legal memory of the Belarusian people; assist in the reconstruction of social and historical justice, help the repressed citizens in the abolition of unreasonable and oppressive acts of the government and their subsequent rehabilitation.

1.4. *BDC* collects, stores, organizes and processes information concerning gross violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and national legislation of Belarus, as well as other types of information that are of historical interest; provides legal advice to repressed citizens; advises national and international non-governmental organizations to consolidate their efforts to protect human rights in Belarus; interacts with government, non-governmental organizations, such as national and international courts, legal agencies, universities and research institutions that can contribute to the promotion of democracy and the rule of law in Belarus.

1.5. In the document submitted the Public Institution *Belarusian Documentation Center* in the part '*The right to life*' states an issue related to enforced disappearances in Belarus of political opponents of the authorities Yuri Zakharenko, Victor Gonchar, Anatoly Krasovski and Dmitri Zavadski. The BDC deeply concerns that fifteen years limitation period for criminal liability for the mentioned disappearances will expire in 2014 that would allow the authorities to drop the criminal cases and persons committed crimes against humanity will go unpunished.