

From: Andriy Andrushevych
Sent: 07 September 2020 6:11 PM
To: ECE-Aarhus-Compliance; [emails redacted]
Subject: URGENT; Decision VI/8c concerning Belarus (ACCC/C/2014/102)

To: Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee
aarhus.compliance@un.org

Dear Ms.Marshall,

With this letter, I am bringing to your attention an urgent situation with Ms. Iryna Sukhiy, a Belarus environmental activist (one of the persons found to be persecuted in ACCC/C/2014/102). On September 6, 2020, Ms.Sukhiy was detained by a group of unidentified enforcement officers by forcefully taking from her home to a local police department with no charges presented (Sovetskoye ROVD) (http://belapan.com/archive/2020/09/06/ru_1058627/?fbclid=IwAR0ccYRjhd-Iy0a9do3Zys2MrI9jGnr6ZbqA2x9462S0eUh9plq04hyGmo). Later the same day her home was subject to a police search.

Today, September 7, 2020, during on-line court proceedings she was charged with participation in an allegedly illegal street mass gathering (demonstration) on Sep 3, 2020, in Minsk. However, after the court was presented with evidence she was away from the city on Sep 3, 2020, her case was returned for further investigation but she remains in custody.

I have reasons to believe her detention is likely to be linked to her active work in recent weeks related to the start of the nuclear power plant in Ostrovets (a matter subject to ACCC/C/2014/102).

I am kindly asking the Committee to take urgent measures and/or inform the Bureau of the Convention and approach the Government of Belarus for her immediate release from jail.

Regards,
Andriy Andrushevych
European ECO Forum Legal Focal Point for EECCA countries