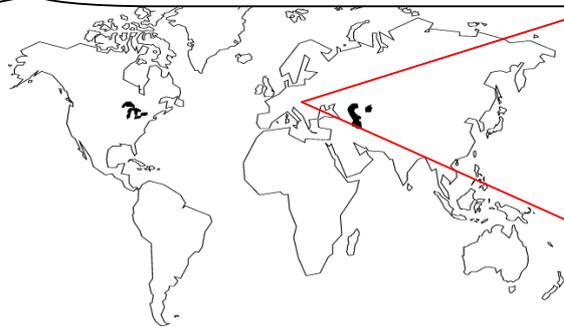


## Summer Action - 10 000 origami cranes for Zmitser Dashkevich

### Where?

Zmitser comes from Belarus in Eastern Europe.



**Why?** Zmitser Dashkevich is 25 years old. He has been put in prison for a year and a half because of his activities with a group called the 'Young Front'. Amnesty International thinks he is a prisoner of conscience - someone imprisoned for peacefully expressing their opinions.

Zmitser is a leader of the 'Young Front'. They are a group that is opposed to the government in Belarus. This means that they disagree with some of the things that the government says and does.

Groups like this have to register with the Belarusian authorities, otherwise they are breaking the law, but the Belarusian government has recently introduced new laws to make registration a very complicated process. Young Front has tried to register 6 times but has never been successful.

Amnesty International is worried because the Belarusian authorities have arrested lots of youth activists like Zmitser, for belonging to unregistered organisations. Everyone has the right to freedom of speech, association and assembly. This means they should be able to express their opinions, belong to a group like Young Front, and to hold peaceful meetings. They shouldn't be scared that the government might harass or arrest them.

Amnesty International thinks that Zmitser should be released from prison immediately and that groups in Belarus should be allowed to peacefully express their beliefs.



### What do you think?

- Have you ever belonged to a group of young people who want to change the world around them?
- Why do you think the Belarusian authorities have acted in this way?
- What do you think these people should do next?
  - \* The Belarussian authorities?
  - \* Amnesty International?
  - \* You?

*Turn over if you'd like to take action*

This summer there are **three** ways that you can take action for Zmitser Dashkevich.

# Take Action!

## Make one of 10 000 Origami Cranes

A legend says that if you fold 1 000 origami crane birds, your wish will be granted. Origami cranes symbolize peace. Our wish today is for Belarus to let people peacefully express their opinions and release Zmitser and others like him.



So far, more than 5 000 origami cranes have been sent to the government in Belarus. Why not join in and make a crane asking for Zmitser's release?

How to make your crane: Cut out a square piece of paper, or use the outline enclosed. Go to <http://noise.amnesty.org/belarus> to watch a free 'how to' video. Before putting your crane in an envelope, take a picture and upload it on the website in two easy steps. You can even check out the online gallery to see what people all over the world have already done!

Send your cranes to: Minister of Internal Affairs, Vladimir V Naumov, ul. Gorodskoi Val 4, 220615 Minsk, Belarus

## Send a letter

Write a letter to the Belarusian authorities. You could:

- Explain why you think Zmitser Dashkevich shouldn't be in prison
- Ask for Zmitser to be released
- Ask for groups in Belarus to be allowed to peacefully express their opinions

Send your letters to Alayksandr G. Lukashenka - President, ul. Karla Marxa 38, 22016, Minsk, Belarus

## Send Zmitser a birthday card

Zmitser will be 26 on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2007. Why not send him a birthday card letting him know you are thinking of him? Zmitser has asked friends to let Amnesty know that he is very grateful when he receives letters from Amnesty members. He said it gives him moral support and that people who work at the prison are giving him more respect. You can even try writing in Belarusian!

Please send a religious or non-religious card to:

Zmitser Dashkevich, IK No. 17, g Shklou, Magileu Region 213004, Belarus

Suggested messages:

I am thinking of you: Я думаю пра цябе

We are thinking of you: Мы думаем пра цябе

I am wishing you well: Я жадаю табе добра

We are wishing you well: Мы жадаем табе добра

