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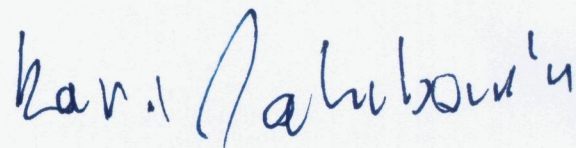
Warsaw, May 8, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I wish to recommend, with full conviction and without reservation, Professor Oleg Manaev (Aleh Manayeu) of Minsk, Belarus, for the John Humphrey Award. Few individuals can be more deserving of this Rights and Democracy Award than Professor Manaev who has dedicated his life to pursuing, in a peaceful and non-violent way, precisely these goals for himself, his family, his nation and his country.

An internationally-renowned sociologist and media scholar and at the same time a social activist and fighter for democracy in his country, Professor Manaev has shown extraordinary bravery, commitment and persistence, despite trying and difficult circumstances, in striving to protect human rights in Belarus and nursing a nascent civil society into development. At the same time, his long string of research reports and publications has provided it with a foundation of impartial knowledge, meeting rigorous scholarly standards, and ideas needed in charting its course. At all times, he has had to face and endure intimidation and persecution at the hands of an authoritarian regime, never sure of what the next day would bring.

Professor Manaev has produced a prodigious body of work and undertaken a great many duties and responsibilities. This has shown that he is more than an ivory-tower theoretician, but someone willing and able to make a tangible personal contribution, when circumstances allow, to putting into place the building blocks of a democratic society that protects human rights. He therefore richly deserves to receive this Award and I certainly recommend that he should.



Karol Jakubowicz