

RFE/RL: Former Belarusian Leader Marks 75th Birthday In United States



Stanislaŭ Šuškievič, the first leader of independent Belarus between 1991 and 1994, one of the men who gave Belarus its independence renewed after over 70 years of Soviet occupation, is now not even getting a decent pension paid from the Belarusian state

because of being in opposition to president Aliaksandr Lukašenka.

This largely relates to the whole period of early 1990s in Belarus: the [state symbols of that time](#) are de-facto forbidden for public usage, national leaders of that time are either ignored, like Šuškievič, or exiled, like the leader of the Belarusian Popular Front [Zianon Paźniak](#), or humbly demonstrating their loyalty to the President, like former PM [Viačaslaŭ Kiebič](#).

The former leader of Belarus, Stanislau Shushkevich marked his 75th birthday today, RFE/RL's Belarus Service reports. Along with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, Shushkevich signed the [Belavezha – bielar.us] Accords that dissolved the Soviet Union in 1991. Shushkevich was the chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet from 1991 to 1994 and played a key role in creating the Commonwealth of Independent States. [Read full story](#)