

# The National Endowment for Democracy hosts an event on Belarus



*The International Republican Institute (IRI), the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and RFE/RL invite you to a briefing:*

## **Are Belarus' Overtures to the West Genuine?**

**Friday, December 12, 2008 9:00AM-10:30AM**

**National Endowment for Democracy 1025 F Street NW, Suite 800**  
[at the historic Woodward and Lothrop Building]

### **Presentations by**

**Olga Kazulina** *Activist and daughter of opposition leader, Alyaksandr Kazulin*

**Alyaksandr Klaskouski** *Director of Analytical Projects, BelaPAN news agency*

### **Introduced by**

**Rodger Potocki** *Director for Europe and Eurasia, National Endowment for Democracy*

**Please RSVP** by email to <[bobbiet@ned.org](mailto:bobbiet@ned.org)> or

by telephone to (202) 378-9525.

**D**espite the controversial September 2008 parliamentary elections in Belarus, which were widely denounced by western

observers as undemocratic, the European Union has followed through on pre-election pledges to loosen travel restrictions on Belarusian government officials, including President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

Over the past year, Belarus has taken steps to release political prisoners and says it wants improved relations with the West. Is Belarus, which continues to actively repress domestic criticism and has reportedly offered to host Russian missiles on its territory, sincere in its stated wish to improve relations with Europe and America?

**Olga Kazulina** is the daughter of political prisoner and former presidential candidate

Alyaksandr Kazulin, who was arrested in March 2006 and sentenced to 5 1/2 years of imprisonment for his political actions against the Lukashenko regime. She is a member of the Social Democratic Party and the commission "Freedom for Kazulin and All Political Prisoners." Ms. Kazulina was the deputy director of the firm Alaktiv from 2005 until 2007, when she was fired after attending an opposition conference in Lithuania.

**Alyaksandr Klaskouski** is Director of Analytical Projects for the news agency BelaPAN and Editor-in-Chief of BelaPAN's Elections website. He also runs a popular political blog for the e-weekly *Nasha Niva* and writes a column for *Naviny.by*. Mr. Klaskouski is a regular contributor to RFE/RL's Belarus Service and BelSat, a Warsaw-based satellite television channel. Both speakers are in the U.S. at the invitation of the International Republican Institute to participate in events marking International Human Rights Day.

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