

Belarusian presidential election will take place on December 19, 2010



On September 14, Belarusian Chamber of Representatives has set the date of the presidential election in the country. All present 108 MPs unanimously voted for this date.

It is noteworthy how the debate on the date of the election in the Chamber of Representatives was taking place. According to charter97.org*, MP Anatoly Hlaz offered to hold the election on February 6, but his proposal was not supported by anyone. MP Uladzimir Zdanovich immediately started agitating for Alyaksandr Lukashenka. He offered all MPs to tell at the local level how good the life is under the current regime. He finished his speech with the words: "What for do we need somebody else?"

According to the Belarusian Constitution, the presidential election is set by the Chamber of Representatives earlier than 2 months before the expiry of the term of the current president. The presidential term of Lukashenka finishes on April 6, 2011.

Prospective presidential candidates are to file applications for registration of initiative groups on September 24 at the latest.

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Taiwan News: Investigative journalist in Belarus faces threats



The article by Iryna Chalip (Irina Khalip) gave a freezy reminder of late 1990s when Belarusian opposition politicians have been abducted and presumably killed.

The story around US lawyer Emanuel Zeltser is quite mysterious because one can hardly find a motivation for Belarusian KGB to act in the interests of the exiled Russian oligarch Boris Berezovsky and assist him in getting hands on the legacy of the Georgian tycoon Badri Patarkatsishvili by again threatening the well-known investigative journalist Iryna Chalip.

It seems an other story where we'll know the truth not earlier than the Belarusian KGB opens its archives years from now.

One sad thing the whole story makes clear is that freedom of press still remains only theory for Belarus, just as five or ten years ago.

An investigative journalist in Belarus says she has received anonymous threats linked to her publication. Irina Khalip says she has received the threats by e-mail, telephone and in a telegram. She said Wednesday that she believes the security

