

# Global Integrity Report on Belarus



WASHINGTON – The annual report of Global Integrity, a Washington D.C.-based

independent think-tank, tracked corruption trends around the world.

A new Global Integrity's Grand Corruption Watch List of for 2008 includes: Angola, Belarus, Cambodia, China, Georgia, Iraq, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Serbia, Somalia, the West Bank, and Yemen; these countries are at serious risk for high-level corruption.

It is interesting that Belarus has [the highest score](#) in the category of customs and taxes. This is in contrast to the World Bank's assessment, which [ranked](#) the Belarusian tax system as the worst (i.e. the most complicated) in the world.

*Global Integrity's lead researcher summarized the political reality in Belarus by noting, "there is no ruling political party. In Belarus, we have A. Lukashenko and his authoritarian state." Stemming from this, there is little accountability at the executive, legislative or judicial branches, as can be seen in the inaccessibility of government records and candidates' willful ignoring of political financing regulations.*

*In addition, the government has created an environment in which a viable and independent civil society cannot exist. "All projects, researches and organizations which dare to criticize the current situation in Belarus meet governmental interference." International and national financing of civil society groups is restricted by the government, 85% of the*

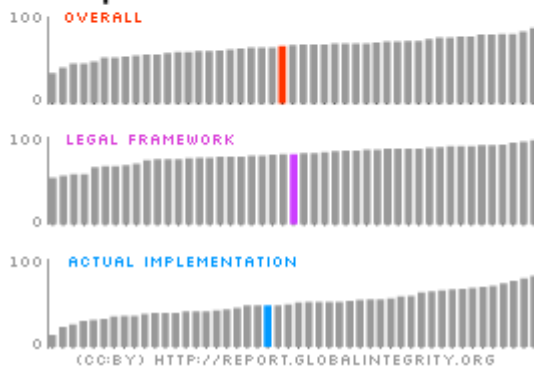
*newspapers in circulation are state-owned and government intimidation of trade union members caused the European Union to impose sanctions on Belarus in 2007.*

### Global Integrity Index: Belarus 2008 Ratings

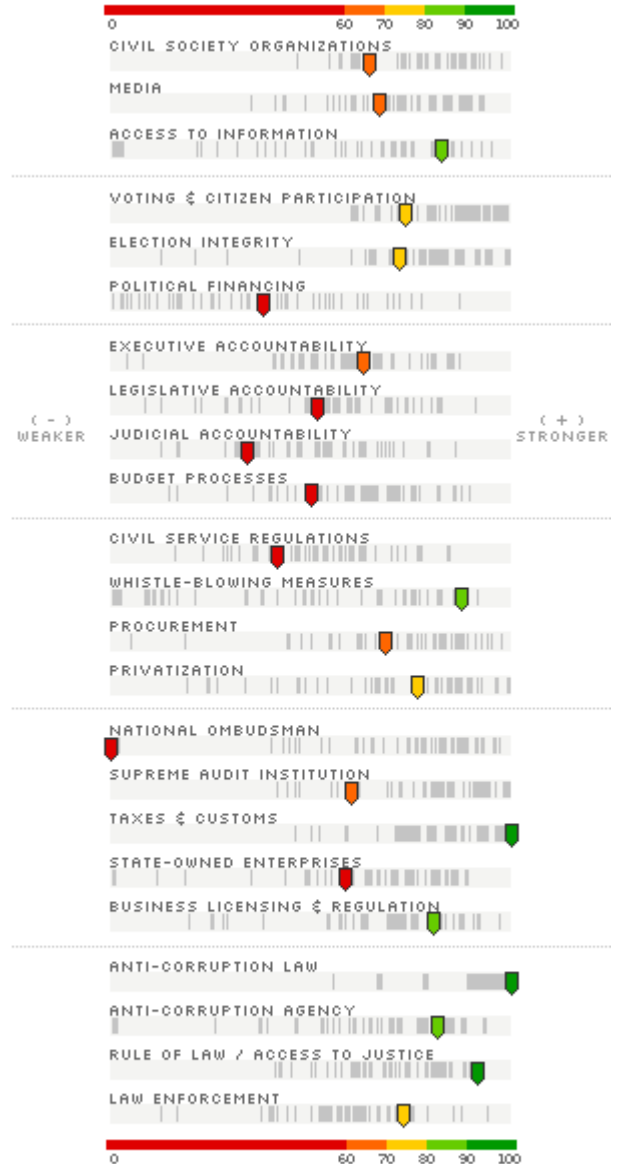
**Overall rating: Weak ( 66 of 100 )**  
Estimated margin of error: +/- 0.47

Legal framework: **81** of 100  
Actual implementation: **48** of 100  
Implementation gap: **Very Large (33)**

#### Comparison to 50 diverse countries



### Global Integrity Report: Belarus Integrity Indicators Summary, 2008



COLORLED ARROWS INDICATE THIS COUNTRY'S RATING ON EACH TOPIC. THE GRAY BARS BEHIND INDICATE THE RATING OF 50 OTHER COUNTRIES MEASURED IN 2008. RESULTS ARE BASED ON 15,000+ LOCAL, PEER REVIEWED ASSESSMENTS. FOR DETAILS SEE METHODOLOGY AT...

[HTTP://REPORT.GLOBALINTEGRITY.ORG](http://report.globalintegrity.org)



# 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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