



CENTRAL & EAST
EUROPEAN
COALITION

March 3, 2011

The Honorable John F. Kerry
218 Russell Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
706 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kerry and Senator Lieberman:

We are writing on behalf of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), which is comprised of 18 national ethnic organizations and represents over 20 million Americans. We wish to express our appreciation for your Op-Ed: *Five steps to take on the crackdown in Belarus*, published in *The Washington Post* on Sunday, January 30, 2011.

Your strong statement regarding the authoritarian regime in Belarus and call for action on an international level are deeply appreciated by the CEEC. The United States should utilize the resources at its disposal to ensure that the seeds of democracy are nourished during this difficult time. U.S. solidarity with the people of Belarus and expressions of support send an important and timely message. It is for these reasons that we strongly support the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2011 (H.R. 515) which was recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. We hope that a companion measure will also be championed in the U.S. Senate.

As the developments in Belarus continue to unfold, we look forward to your leadership and working with you on this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

Frank Koszorus, Jr.
President
American Hungarian Federation

Armand A. Scala
President
Congress of Romanian Americans, Inc.

Bryan Ardouny
Executive Director
Armenian Assembly of America

American Hungarian Federation
American Latvian Association
in the U.S.
Armenian Assembly of America
Belarusian-American Association
Bulgarian Institute for Research
and Analysis
Congress of Romanian Americans
Washington Chapter Czechoslovak National
Council of America
Estonian American National Council
Georgian Association in the USA
Hungarian American Coalition
Joint Baltic American National Committee
Lithuanian American Council
Lithuanian American Community
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