

SVENSKA P·E·N

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GRUNDAT 1922



President

Alexander Lukashenko

Karla Marksa 38

Minsk 220016

Belarus

Stockholm 16 November 2020

Your Excellency,

We are outraged and shocked by the heinous crime committed against Raman Bandarenka, a 31-year-old artist and peaceful protester. He was arrested by masked men in Minsk on 11 November, severely beaten and driven away in a police van. Several hours later, Raman Bandarenka was transferred to hospital, unconscious, with head injuries and a collapsed lung. After several hours of surgery, his life could not be saved. He died due to the vicious beatings by a group of unidentified assailants. On more victim of the rule of terror against dissenting voices in Belarus.

We condemn this murder in strongest words and demand a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the killing and that the persecutors be brought to justice.

We call for an immediate stop to the horrifying tactics of repression – merciless torture and even killings – against people of Belarus.

Peaceful protesters who have but one aim – democracy - and that the will of the people in Belarus be respected.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth Löfgren

Chair, Writers in Prison Committee, Swedish PEN