



4 August

The International Day of Solidarity with Civil Society of Belarus

**Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere**

(Martin Luther King)

**Join the International Day of Solidarity
with Civil Society of Belarus**

On August 4, 2011 Ales Bialiatski, famous human rights activist from Belarus, chair of Human Rights centre «Viasna», vice president of the International Federation for Human Rights was arrested.

With this action we want to draw attention to the situation in Belarus and to show solidarity with the people who are fighting for freedom facing constant pressure and harassment.

We believe that freedom should have no borders, - the situation in Belarus is a common challenge for civil society throughout Europe and Eurasia. All this space can not be considered a territory of freedom, while there are countries where it is threatened - such as Belarus.

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Yakub Kolas

(1882 – 1956)

Writer, classic of Belarusian literature,
teacher.

**I'm given a precious heritage from time immemorial,
Like mother's tenderness, it is with me, imperishable...
My thoughts are with it long ago, and dreams and songs of clear.
The name of it is the Dearest homeland.**

The central topic of his pre-revolutionary works is the peasant labor life.

The poems "The New Land" and "Symon-musician" became widely famous. The separate course of his work are the topics of World War I, Civil and the Great Patriotic War (the play "War to war", story "The Bog", the collection of poems "We shall avenge").

In Soviet times the writer also turns to the national themes, his works are notable for great interest in folk spirit and humanistic orientation.

"Palesse stories" of Yakub Kolas were of great significance for the genre formation of national novel. In consequence, they became a part of the trilogy "On the crossroads". The trilogy skillfully depicts the social life in Belarus, the way of life in different social groups is vividly shown. The sense of nature is given by the author in description of landscapes with amazing delicacy.

Yakub Kolas wrote not only prose and poems, he translated the texts, for example, of A. S. Pushkin and M. Y. Lermontov. His works are also translated to many world languages.

Not only the creative life of the writer was rich, but also that of social sphere. Yakub Kolas was the chairman of the Belarusian Republican Peace Committee. In 1938 he was elected as a deputy of the BSSR Supreme Council and in 1946 - as a deputy of the Supreme Council of USSR.

Labor poeticizing, praising of the soul beauty of the working man, turning to the folklore and, essentially, the genuine interest towards one's own people, its way of life, the cultural and historical features saturate works of Yakub.