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5 March 2009

Dear Sir :

Reporters Without Borders, a worldwide press freedom organisation, would like to express its concern to you about working conditions for foreign journalists in Belarus.

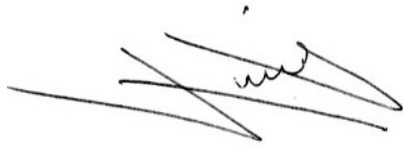
For the past three months, your ministry has systematically refused to accredit foreign journalists, such as those from *Radio Racyja*, *Belsat* and *Gazeta Wyborcza*. These media outlets, a source of independent news in Belarus, must be allowed to do their job without bureaucratic restrictions.

The new media law that came into force last month must not in any circumstances hinder freedom of expression in Belarus, but we note that it is routinely being used against media outlets seeking accreditation.

We ask you to grant accreditation to all foreign journalists who request it. This would be proof of sincerity in wanting to expand media freedom in Belarus.

I hope you will give this letter your best attention.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a stylized representation of the name.

Jean-François Julliard

Secretary-General