



Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty,
the Center for Strategic and International Studies
and the International League for Human Rights

invite you to a briefing by

Svetlana Zavadskaya

President, Dmitry Zavadsky Foundation

Marina Rakhlei

Journalist, BelaPAN News Agency

Olga Stuzhinskaya

Coordinator, "Democratic Belarus" (Brussels, Belgium)

Belarus Before the Presidential Election

February 7, 2006

9:00AM-10:30AM

in Conference Room A (4th Floor) at
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
1201 Connecticut Ave NW

[entrance on Rhode Island Ave NW, next to St. Matthew's Cathedral]

As Belarus approaches its March 19 presidential election, international organizations from the U.N. to the European Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the OSCE have criticized Belarusian government attempts to muzzle independent journalists and critics of incumbent President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and to ensure victory for Lukashenka in the upcoming poll. These three speakers will discuss the current situation in Belarus, in the first of a series of events on the Belarus and the election.

Svetlana Zavadskaya is the wife of disappeared Russian television journalist Dmitry Zavadsky and a long-time civil society activist. She is the President of the recently-established Dmitry Zavadsky Foundation. **Marina Rakhlei** is a well-known journalist with the independent Belarusian news agency BelaPAN, one of the very few remaining independent media outlets in Belarus. **Olga Stuzhinskaya** is a young pro-democracy activist who serves as the Brussels-based coordinator for Belarusian pro-democratic initiatives, including the non-governmental organization "Democratic Belarus".

Please RSVP by February 6 by email to <dc-response@rferl.org>, by telephone to Melody Jones at (202) 457-6949, or by fax to (202) 457-6992.