The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the communication of 11 September 2012 by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, has the honour to enclose the Mission’s request.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and has the honour to refer to their communication of 11 September 2012.

The Permanent Mission has to draw the attention of the Special Procedures that the practice of sending of joint communications undermines the principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time and therefore it contradicts the institution-building package of the Human Rights Council (paragraph 44, A/HRC/RES/5/1). In this context the Permanent Mission also notes the violation of Article 3 (d) of the Code of Conduct, which obliges every mandate-holder "to focus exclusively on the implementation of their mandate" (A/HRC/RES/5/2).

The Permanent Mission urges the Special Rapporteurs to individualize points they wish to address to the Government in terms of their respective mandates. Such individualized communications will be considered in line with the specific mandate of every Special Procedure.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders the assurances of its highest consideration.

Mr. Frank William La Rue
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Mr. Maina Kiai
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Ms. Margaret Sekagya
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Geneva, 10 October 2012