

## **Obama Extends Sanctions Against Belarus**

By Global Research

Global Research, June 10, 2010

Ria Novosti 9 June 2010

U.S. President Barack Obama extended sanctions against Belarus for another consecutive year, the White House said on its website on Wednesday.

"The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States," Obama said in a message to the Congress.

"For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared to deal with this threat and the related measures blocking the property of certain persons," he said.

Obama said that despite certain improvements in the political climate in the ex-Soviet state, "serious challenges remain."

Washington imposed sanctions against Belarus's state-controlled petrochemicals company Belneftekhim and froze assets of its U.S. subsidiary in 2007, adding to travel bans and asset freezes for senior officials including President Alexander Lukashenko, introduced in 2006 over human rights abuses and a lack of democracy.

In response, Belarus expelled the U.S. ambassador and recalled its ambassador from the U.S., while saying Washington must cut the number of its embassy employees.

Lukashenko, once dubbed by Washington "Europe's last dictator," said last year his country was ready to restore diplomatic relations with the United States once the sanctions are lifted.

The original source of this article is <u>Ria Novosti</u> Copyright © <u>Global Research</u>, <u>Ria Novosti</u>, 2010

## **Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page**

## **Become a Member of Global Research**

Articles by: Global Research

Region: Europe

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: <a href="mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca">publications@globalresearch.ca</a>

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: <a href="mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca">publications@globalresearch.ca</a>