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**Europe and Belarus.**

Vladimir Dorokhov at the microphone.

V. Dorohov. "Hello. In today's issue we will talk about how the Belarusian authorities are trying to limit the professional activities of those who do not follow the official ideological and political line. The occasion was the situation with a well-known Belarusian sociologist, professor of the Belarusian State University Oleg Manaev. Details from our Minsk correspondent Natalya Grigoryeva. "

Natalya Grigoryeva, "The leadership of the Belarusian State University, the leading university of the country, have decided to part ways in the form of separation by content of both parties with Oleg Manaev, professor of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences. Such wording is usually used when the employer wants to get rid of unwanted or inconvenient employee without unnecessary excesses, when there are no legitimate reasons to fire him, such as incompetence or violation of labor discipline. Oleg Manaev tell us the story.

Oleg Manaev: "That was my first question - what happened, what are the reasons? The rector of the Academy, Sergei Ablameyko and Professor Vladimir Cluny said that they have no complaints whatsoever about my work. The main problem is with my contacts with the leaders and representatives of the opposition organizations. "You work in a leading public university and as a public employee you are required to follow state policies. And the activities of these organization is contrary to it. That was the claim. "

Natalya Grigoryeva: "The name of Professor Oleg Manaev is reputable and well known not only in Belarus, because of dozens of his books, scientific articles and papers related to issues of social development. The results of public opinion polls, conducted by the Independent Institute of Socio Economic and Political Studies, which was headed by Oleg Manaev for years, is used by many, including the highest level Belarusian officials.

Oleg Manaev: "Obviously, it is not a decision made by the leadership of the University. It is a political decision, someone else's. And what is going on in the political process in the Republic of Belarus - the Presidential election. So certain actions were taken. On a large table somewhere lies a large table, with the cells and lines. It says - here are the political parties, youth organizations, human rights organizations, the independent press, and the independent sociologists. And they are gradually trying to cross them out, and in the right time, so that they could not be a threat for the elections as they are planned."

Natalya Grigoryeva, "But the attempts to cross out sociologist Oleg Manaev have failed. More than 100 scientists from 30 countries signed a letter in support of the Belarusian professor. The letter included a reminder to the leadership of the University and country that in a civilized world, academic freedoms are sacred.

Oleg Manaev admits his name saved him. It is much harder for those who are not protected by titles, ranks and fame.

Spokesperson of the campaign "Tell the Truth" Julia Rymashevskiy is convinced that in Belarus it has become a trend to fire people, who are not loyal to the government."

Yulia Rymashevskiy: "In order for the management to fire you, it is not even necessary to speak out or organize rallies somewhere. A signal is being sent from the top: We do not like this person, and so even if management considers that person to be a good employee, they execute the order from above. And sometimes management uses repressions because they do not like someone's active position, which does not coincide with either the state position, or that of the manager."

Natalya Grigoryeva, "The exact number of Belarusians who are unemployed for political reason is not known even by the independent sociologists. People in the campaign "Tell the Truth" are convinced that for a long time that number exceeds two digits. And it is not easy to get rid of the black mark given to you by the government."

Vladimir Dorokhov: "I asked the former head of the Consultative Monitoring Group in Minsk, now the head of the German civil initiative "Human Rights in Byelorussia" Hans Georg Wieck to comment on the actions of the Belarusian authorities against the professor Manaev.

Hans-Georg Wieck: "I consider the actions of the Belarusian authorities as an attempt to prevent conducting independent public opinion polls on the eve of the presidential elections. Professor Manaev does that for many years. And, also, as an attempt to discredit them in the eyes of the public. Public opinion polls are an important indicator of what the population really thinks. President Lukashenko is preparing for elections and wants in any case to avoid the risk, which is brought by independent opinion polls. After all, they can provide a basis for protesting against manipulation of election results. And they can lead to public protests." - German expert on Belarusian issues Dr. Hans-Georg Wieck.