**TRANSLATION**

This translation contains the essential facts of the document/or excerpt attached herewith.

**Council under the President of the Russian Federation for the Promotion of Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights**

**Bulletin № 11 Public Russian-Belarusian human rights commission**

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**Public Russian-Belarusian human rights commission of the Council on Civil Society and Human Rights under the President of the Russian Federation**

**Human Rights Chronicle**

**Belarus**

**Limitation of non-governmental organizations and political parties**

The Supreme Court liquidated the public association "Belarusian think tank." The sociologist and the coordinator of the association Oleg Manaev reported this.

Recall, the trial on the suit of the Ministry of Justice to the NGO "Belarusian think tank" began in the Supreme Court on 24th January 2006. Then the organization was suspended because its legal address was located in a private apartment.

O. Manaev stressed that the trial took place on August 3rd without his participation, as a sociologist was on vacation and did not receive the notice. He drew attention to the fact that initially anticipated just such a course of events. "It is symptomatic that even the absence of the defendant did not matter," - said the sociologist. According to him, members of the association did not consider it possible to transfer the legal address. O. Manaev noted that the funding was not enough for re-registration of the address. He also called contrary to the Constitution of Belarus the norm of the illegality of the legal address of a private apartment.

O. Manaev reminded that the NGO "Belarusian think tank" was registered in 1997. Back then, it included more than 100 political scientists, sociologists, analysts, 18 independent research centers. After the presidential election of 2001, the number of centers has decreased - the authorities closed some of them, such as the International Centre for Policy Studies, Belarusian Center for Constitutionalism, part self-destructed, some analysts began to work privately.

According to O. Manaev, Belarusian think tank was the only association of its kind in the country. "In fact, its activity is now recognized as hostile and anti-state", - said the sociologist.