

URGENT ACTION

ANDREI SANNIKAU DENIED ACCESS TO LAWYER

On 17 November Andrei Sannikau's lawyer was told by the Director of Mahiliow prison, north-east Belarus, that he was being held there. However his lawyer was refused a meeting with Andrei Sannikau on the grounds that he is currently being transferred.

This information indicates that **Andrei Sannikau** was moved from the labour colony in Babruisk where he was serving his sentence, to Mahiliow on 16 November. The prison director told his lawyer that he would be moved again from Mahiliow, but neither his lawyer nor his family have been told where this will be. Transferring from one detention centre to another is very stressful for prisoners both physically and mentally. They are transported in poor conditions, guarded by dogs and frequently deprived of food and water.

Andrei Sannikau was sentenced for his peaceful participation in post election demonstrations in Minsk in December 2010. Many who were sentenced for participating in the demonstrations have been released after they agreed to sign a confession for organizing or taking part in "mass disorder". Amnesty International believes that Andrei Sannikau is being subjected to frequent transfers as a way of putting physical and psychological pressure on him to sign a confession.

Please write immediately in Russian, Belarusian or your own language:

- Call on the Belarusian authorities to immediately allow Andrei Sannikau access to his lawyer;
- Remind the Belarusian authorities that Andrei Sannikau is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of his political views and that he should be released immediately and unconditionally, along with all other prisoners of conscience held in connection with demonstrations in December 2010;
- Remind them that they have a duty to protect the physical and psychological wellbeing of those in custody, this includes a duty to protect prisoners from attacks by third parties as well as state agents;
- Call on the authorities to ensure that he is not tortured or ill-treated by state officials or third parties.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 DECEMBER 2011 TO:

General Prosecutor

Alexander Koniuk
Ul. Internatsionalnaya 22
220050 Minsk,
Belarus
Fax: +375 17 226 42 52

Salutation: Dear General Prosecutor

Minister of Internal Affairs

Anatoly Kuleshov
Ul. Gorodskoi Val 2
220050 Minsk,
Belarus
Fax: +375 17 203 99 18

Salutation: Dear Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 299/11. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR49/022/2011/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Opposition presidential candidate Andrei Sannikau was sentenced in May to five years in prison for taking part in post-election demonstrations. Amnesty International believes that the charges against him, and at least five others, are unfounded, and that they have been targeted for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of assembly and expression.

In September Andrei Sannikau, and another prisoner of conscience, Zmitser Dashkevich, were subjected to over 10 days of being transported from one prison colony to another. Between 20 and 26 September, Andrei Sannikau's lawyer had not been informed of his client's whereabouts. At a press conference, his wife, Iryna Khalip, reported that Andrei Sannikau had been threatened by cellmates held in the city of Vitebsk, who stated "We don't intend to kill you, but.....you may be transferred to another cell, where you may be beaten or even killed. Prisoners kill each other. It happens."

There is no new information on political activist Zmitser Dashkevich.

Amnesty International is continuing to ask for the release of the remaining prisoners of conscience who were sentenced in connection with the demonstration in December 2010. The other remaining prisoners are:

Zmitser Dashkevich, sentenced to 2 years' hard labour on 24 March

Zmitser Bandarenka, sentenced to 2 years on 26 March

Eduard Lobau, sentenced to 4 years on 24 March

Pavel Sevyarynets, sentenced to 3 years on 16 May

Mykalau Statkevich, sentenced to 6 years on 26 May

Another prisoner of conscience, Dzmitry Uss, was sentenced to five and a half years' imprisonment in May 2011, was released on 1 October.

Name: Andrei Sannikau

Gender: m

Further information on UA: 299/11 Index: EUR 49/023/2011 Issue Date: 17 November 2011

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