



**FIDH - International Federation for Human Rights
Human Rights Center Viasna**

**9 political prisoners in Belarus are in critical situation and freedom for 32
activists is restricted**

April 2014

Evidence gathered by FIDH and its member organisation in Belarus, Human Rights Centre Viasna, clearly contradicts the statement made at a press conference¹ on February 14, 2013 by the Belarusian Deputy Prosecutor, General Alyaksey Stuk, that the detention conditions of the 9 detainees currently identified by our organisations as **political prisoners** in Belarusian prisons and penal colonies are not different from the conditions of other prisoners. The 9 detainees suffer regular punishments that sharply exacerbate the already difficult conditions of their detention by restricting their means of support and quality of food and medical assistance. Often deprived of meetings with relatives, and subject to limits on correspondence, and constant pressure to make them write petitions for pardon, the physical ordeal of these individuals is intensified by psychological ordeals, qualifying detention conditions as inhuman and degrading treatment, prohibited by the articles 7 and 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 16 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

In 2014, three political prisoners shall be released: Andrei Haidukou on May 8; Vasil Parfiankou on December 5 and Eduard Lobau on December 18.

Despite repeated appeals, no representative of any diplomatic mission has been able to visit the political prisoners. In late September 2012, only Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, the Apostolic Nuncio in Belarus, was able to visit Eduard Lobau, Mikalai Statkevich,

¹ The conditions of "political prisoners", "the same as all other prisoners" - PGO], Interfax.by, 14 February 2013, available at <http://www.interfax.by/news/belarus/125295>.

Zmitser Dashkevich, Pavel Sieviaryniets, and Ales Bialiatski, who were all detained at the time.

FIDH and Viasna hereby note that in addition to these 9 political prisoners, a number of unimprisoned Belarusian citizens are currently subject to severe restrictions imposed following prosecution in politically motivated criminal cases. This number includes 32 former political prisoners at the time of this publication.

27 political prisoners were pardoned and released from prison between 2011 and 2013: their convictions have not been expunged, which deprives them of numerous civil and political rights, including the right to run in elections or work as a government employee. Their names remain on “**preventive watch**” lists² maintained by internal affairs agencies, making them vulnerable to regular police visits. If brought in on administrative charges three times in one year, they face “**preventive supervision**”. Such supervision carries more serious restrictions: being under preventive supervision means that the former political prisoner must stay at home during nighttime hours, is unable to leave his hometown without permission from the authorities, and is subject to numerous bans that severely restrict his freedom, including visiting public places, etc. Such supervision also makes repeated **criminal prosecution** and **deprivation of freedom** possible.

In August 2013, two political prisoners who were just released (Zmitser Dashkevich and Aliaksandr Frantskevich) were subject to preventive supervision. On March 4, 2014, the term of Frantskevich's supervision expired, and he was placed on watch list. By the time of this publication, Dashkevich is still under supervision.

On April 8, 2014, political prisoner Mikalai Autukhovich was released. However, he has been placed under preventive supervision from the day of his release for 1 year and 4 months, as ruled by the court of Grodno prison on March 18, 2014.

In December of 2013, two new political prisoners, Uladzimir Yaromenak³ and Vasil Parfiankou⁴, who were under preventive supervision, were sentenced to imprisonment. Both activists were charged with violating the rules of preventive supervision and sentenced to three months and one year imprisonment, respectively:

- preventive supervision on Uladzimir Yaromenak officially expired on October 1, 2013. However, a month earlier, on August 20, 2013, he was charged with violating the rules of his preventive supervision (Article 421 of the Criminal Code) and Pervomaisky district court of Minsk sentenced him to 3 month imprisonment. On December 11, 2013 Yaromenak was sent to jail (arestnyj dom)⁵ in Baranovichi. He was released on March 11, 2014 and is now on preventive watch list.
- on December 5, 2013 Vasil Parfiankou was sentenced to imprisonment for violating the rules of preventive supervision (see below).

² Or « watch list ».

³ For analysis see, <http://spring96.org/ru/news/65329>

⁴ For analysis see, <http://spring96.org/ru/news/67656>

⁵ Jail, or « Arestnyj dom » is an institution for those serving a sentence of « arrest ». For more information, see FIDH/Viasna report : <http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/rapportbelarusuk623-bassdef.pdf>

I. Political Prisoners Serving Sentences in prisons or penal colonies

(in alphabetical order)



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1. Ihar Alinevich – Social activist. Born September 24, 1983. In violation of all extradition rules established by bilateral treaties between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, Alinevich was kidnapped in Moscow on November 28, 2010. Unknown persons representing themselves as FSB agents drove him to the border with Belarus, where Belarusian KGB agents were waiting for him with a minibus. The agents immediately started threatening him and demanded that he confess to an entire list of crimes. On the evening of the same day, he was taken to a KGB pretrial detention facility, where agents again demanded that he take responsibility for a whole list of various crimes, without bringing any charges against him or giving him the chance to rest during the day or night. He was officially arrested only on November 29, 2010. Three days later, he was officially charged with attacking the temporary detention facility in Okrestina Str. – a charge that a court later dropped. During his stay at the KGB pretrial detention facility, Alinevich suffered physical and psychological torture. His attorney was not able to meet with him because the authorities at this facility regularly denied him this right. The temperature in his cell was very low, black mould was growing in its corners and it was overcrowded. Alinevich was taken to the bathroom twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. From January 1, 2011, Alinevich was prohibited from receiving packages containing products like nuts, chocolate, dry fruits, and cured fat, i.e. products that are recognized as maintaining the strength and health of prisoners. For over one month, letters from one party or another never reached him. Meetings were prohibited. After half a year in the KGB pretrial detention facility, Alinevich was allowed his first meeting in April 2011, though only with his father. He was given a second meeting with his relatives only after his trial in late 2011.

Alinevich was convicted on May 27, 2011 by the Zavodsky District Court in Minsk under Article 339(2) of the Criminal Code (malicious hooliganism), and Article 218(2) and (3) of the Criminal Code (causing harm to property in a dangerous manner and in an especially large amount). He was sentenced to eight years in a maximum security prison. The principle of the equality of sides in presentation of evidence wasn't observed to a full extent during the court proceedings⁶.

⁶ For analysis see, “Brief review of the process of Belarusian anarchists” Human Rights Center Viasna, 2 June

Alinevich is being held in Penal Colony No. 10 in Navapolatsk, an area which is known for being dangerous to human health, since it is situated between the oil production enterprises Naftan and Polimir. For the entire summer of 2011 (he was sent to the colony in early June 2011), Alinevich was kept in the quarantine section, although the law states that prisoners are only to be kept there for two weeks.

In the fall of 2011, he was allowed his first short meetings, and then long meetings with relatives. Significant problems with correspondence (some letters never reached him, others were delayed for a very long time) and difficulties receiving medical assistance were recorded. According to information received, Alinevich's lawyer has had problems meeting with his client: when Alinevich was finally given the opportunity to meet with his attorney, the meeting took place through a glass partition and in the presence of guards.

In accordance with regulations specified for imprisonment, every year Alinevich is allowed three short meetings, two long meetings, two parcels, and three 30 kg packages. However, he was denied a medical package in 2012, even though his diagnosis with a medical condition was confirmed during his trial. Moreover, Alinevich's short and long stay meetings have been denied or restricted several times at the penal colony. On June 28, 2013, he had a long stay meeting with his relatives, but it lasted only one day instead of three, and took place in a room of about 10-12 square meters, from which permission to leave was denied, rendering the visit an ordeal due to the intense heat. Furthermore, according to information received by FIDH and HRC Viasna, people with whom Alinevich interacts are subsequently subjected to persecution.

As it was reported, back in 2011, after numerous requests Alinevich was accepted to the vocational trade school. After one month of classes though, he was deprived of this opportunity despite the fact that he achieved good result there.

During his time at the penal colony, many disciplinary punishments were inflicted on Alinevich. On April 22, 2013, it became known that he had spent 20 days in punishment isolation. He was first sentenced to ten days in the cell for refusing to clean the toilet (a job which is considered humiliating by prisoners) and then received several more days for "unlawful talking", which is considered as a breach of internal discipline in the colony. Furthermore, Alinevich was placed in a punishment isolation cell⁷ on the day of his 30th birthday, right after his attorney visited him.

Currently, Alinevich is put under a lot of psychological pressure. Before each and every scheduled visit, a disciplinary measure for violations is imposed on him, and he is constantly threatened to be deprived of visits with his family. He was forced once to sign a notice where he was informed that audio- and video recording was going on during these visits. The duration of the visits is limited (thus, in December 2013 he was afforded only one day out of legally allowed three days, and, in fact, the visit lasted only from 4PM until 9:30AM of the following day). In addition to that, phone calls to his family are restricted (the last phone call was made in October 2013). In April 2014, it was reported to our organizations that he was again sentenced to confinement in a punishment isolation cell.

2011, available at: <http://spring96.org/en/news/43788>.

⁷ Also called « solitary confinement ». For more information, see FIDH/Viasna report : <http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/rapportbelarusuk623-bassdef.pdf>



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2. Ales Bialiatski – Chairman of the Viasna Human Rights Center, and FIDH Vice-President. Born 25 September 1962 in the village of Vyartsilya, Sortavalsky District, Karelia (Russian Federation). Arrested on August 4, 2011 and convicted on November 24, 2011 by Pervomaisky District Court in Minsk under Article 243(2) of the Criminal Code (failure to disclose income in especially large amounts) and sentenced to 4.5 years in a maximum security prison with confiscation of property. He is currently at Penal Colony No. 2 in Babruysk.⁸

During his sentence to date, Bialiatski has been punished for violating regulations 12 times. The first three punishments were imposed between March and June 2012, and included deprivation of one long meeting (of two allowed each year). In late June 2012, Bialiatski was found to be in flagrant violation of the established order for serving a sentence on the basis of these three punishments. This resulted in a decrease in the amount of money that he was allowed to withdraw from his personal account every month for food and essential items, from five basic units to one basic unit (from 500,000 to 100,000 Belarusian rubles (approx. 10 Euros)). This status also excludes the possibility of his receiving either amnesty or early release.

Two more punishments were imposed on Bialiatski in August 2012: deprivation of his next food package (one of two allowed each year) and of his next short meeting (also one of two allowed each year). He was also imposed 2 punishments in September and November 2012. In December, he was deprived from his short-meeting with his wife.

In February 2013, Bialiatski was informed that he had been deprived of his long meeting with his wife (3 days). In March 2013, he received two more punishments, one of them denying him the right to receive packages. Only in August, 2013 was he finally allowed a visit from his wife and sister for a two-hour meeting. However, he was refused a long meeting in October 2013.

Ales Bialiatski works several shifts six days a week in the sewing department. This has had an adverse impact on his health.

⁸ For an analysis of the case see “Statement by members of the Human Rights Center “Viasna” on the sentence to Ales Bialiatski”, Human Rights Center Viasna, 24 November 2011, available at: <http://spring96.org/en/news/47644>. See also details on the Freeales.fidh.net site.

One unique aspect of Ales Bialiatski's treatment is that the prison administration prohibits other prisoners from communicating with him. These inmates have been informed that if they do communicate with him, disciplinary action will be taken against them.



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3. Mikalai Dziadok– Social activist, born August 23, 1988 in Bragina (Gomel region). Detained on September 3, 2010 and convicted on May 27, 2011 by the Zavodsky District Court in Minsk under Article 339(2) of the Criminal Code (malicious hooliganism). Sentenced to 4.5 years in a maximum security prison.⁹

Dziadok started serving his sentence at Penal Colony No. 15 in Mahiliou and stayed there until April 2012. During this time, he was subjected to seven disciplinary punishments (mainly for “violating the established form of dress for prisoners”). On October 6, 2012, Dziadok was deprived of the right to receive packages. He was placed in a punishment isolation cell for five days on March 12, 2012, and was again deprived of the right to receive packages or parcels on March 20, 2012. Dziadok asked the administration to allow him to receive technical training at the penal colony many times, but this request was denied each time on the grounds that “secondary specialized education is enough.”

He was subsequently transferred to Penal Colony No. 17 in Škłoŭ on April 6, 2012, where he has been constantly subjected to different forms of pressure and had received several disciplinary punishments.

Under a judgment issued on 5 December 2012 during an offsite hearing conducted by Škłoŭ Court, at the recommendation of the administration, Dziadok's conditions for serving his sentence were made harsher on the pretext that he had violated regulations numerous times. He was transferred from Penal Colony No. 17 in Škłoŭ to Prison No. 4 in Mahiliou. He is currently entitled to one small parcel each year, one short meeting with relatives, and two 2kg packages containing books. It does not appear that restrictions have been placed on his access to his attorney.

Over the past year, the activist has been under a lot of pressure. He was put in a

⁹ For analysis see, “Brief review of the process of Belarusian anarchists” Human Rights Center Viasna, 2 June 2011, available at: <http://spring96.org/en/news/43788>.

punishment isolation cell numerous times. In the first half of June 2013 he spent there ten days for an unknown reason, then, again, ten days in mid-September 2013 (official reason was that he had an inadequate appearance); then 5 days at the beginning of October 2013. In December 2013, he was transferred to detention facility in Zhodzina for two weeks (allegedly for medical reasons), but he ended up getting no medical attention there, just a lot of pressure from the authorities. In April 2014, it was reported to our organizations that Dziadok was again sentenced to confinement in an isolation cell.



4. **Andrei Haidukou** - Democratic activist, born in 1990. Arrested and held in custody at the KGB pretrial detention facility in Minsk on November 13, 2012. Sentenced to 1.5 year in a general security penal colony by the Vitsebsk Regional Court on July 1, 2013 for alleged “attempt of cooperation with the security services of a foreign state” (Article 356.1 of the Belarusian Criminal Code).

While in custody, Haidukou was denied access to his lawyer numerous times and his relatives were not given any information regarding the place where he was held. Human rights defenders have noted on several occasions the lack of transparency and possible political motivation in this criminal case.

Originally detained in the Vitsebsk pre-trial detention center, Haidukou was transferred to the Mahiliou penal colony No. 19. in the beginning of September 2013. His family was not informed of this transfer and found out whilst trying to deliver a parcel to him at the remand prison on September 5, 2013.

On April 6, 2014, Haidukou was transferred back to Vitsebsk, in a colony.

Despite his upcoming release and the fact that he has not received any disciplinary punishment, the administration of the colony is not considering any parole. He shall be released on May 8, 2014.



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5. Eduard Lobau – Activist with the organisation *Molodoy Front* (Young Front). Born in Vilnius on 1 December 1988. Arrested in Minsk with Zmitser Dashkevich in a heavy-handed provocation arranged by special forces with the aim of securing his preventive arrest ahead of protest demonstrations regarding the presidential elections in Belarus. Arrested on 18 December 2010, convicted on March 24, 2011 by the Moscow District Court in Minsk under Article 339(3) of the Criminal Code (particularly malicious hooliganism), and sentenced to four years in a maximum security prison. Currently at Penal Colony No. 22 in Ivacevičy.¹⁰

The administration started recording “violations of regulations” on Lobau’s part sometime in November 2011. By May 2012, Lobau had received seven disciplinary punishments, as a result of which he was given the status of “flagrant violator” with the resulting sanctions: the amount of money he was allowed to transfer to his personal account for purchases at the penal colony’s kiosk was reduced by five times, from 500,000 to 100,000 Belarusian rubles (approximately 10 Euros) and he was no longer able to apply for amnesty under the amnesty law announced on July 10, 2012.

In January 2012, Lobau was issued with his eighth violation of regulations and summoned for a “discussion” with the administration. The penal colony warden did not allow Lobau’s attorney to read his personal file, which listed the alleged grounds on which punishments were issued. As such, specific grounds for issuing decisions about Lobau’s supposed “violations” are lacking. The total number of disciplinary punishments imposed on him had reached ten by February 2013. On March 22, 2013, the term of Lobau’s punishments (namely the disciplinary sanctions imposed upon him while in penal colony) was coming to an end. However, the prison administration then recalled the violations alleged to have taken place at the beginning of the year and extended Lobau’s disciplinary punishments on that basis.

According to information obtained, Lobau has not had any problems accessing his lawyer, although some of these meetings took place in the presence of guards.

Eduard Lobau was given a status of “flagrant violator of regulations”. As of today, he was accused of over twenty violations.

¹⁰ For an analysis of the case see, “Concise analytical review of the trial of Zmitser Dashkevich and Eduard Lobau: Concluding Part”, Human Rights Center Viasna, 25 March 2011, available at: <http://spring96.org/en/news/42074>.



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6. Vasil Parfiankou – Political activist, born on August 30, 1983 in Minsk. Arrested on December 5, 2013, while in the court room during sentencing, and charged under Article 421 of the Republic of Belarus Criminal Code (“violation of the conditions of preventive supervision”). He was sentenced to one year imprisonment in a maximum security penal colony. Currently, he is serving his term in the detention facility of Zhodzina, which has a classification as having ‘bad reputation’. In the beginning of 2014, he was transferred to Gorki Penal Colony.

Vasil was convicted on December 19, 2010, charged for participation in “mass unrest”. He was pardoned and released from prison colony on August 11, 2011. He continued his public activities, though, and was detained again by authorities. On January 5, 2012 he was once again sentenced by the Minsk Pervomaisky District Court for one year of preventive supervision under the following terms: four times a year to report to the local internal affairs authority for registration; not to leave his apartment between 8pm and 6am (except for working at his permanent work place); not to leave the town without prior consent of the internal affairs authority charged with the administration of the preventive supervision.

On May 29, 2012, the Pervomaisky Court sentenced him to six month imprisonment under Article 421 of the Criminal Code for violating the terms of his preventive supervision. He served his sentence at a prison facility in Baranovichi from August 9, 2012 to February 9, 2013. After his release, he was placed under preventive supervision again for a period of seven months. On July 12, 2013, Parfiankou was once more charged under Article 421 of the Criminal Code (violation of the conditions of preventive supervision) by an investigator of the Pervomaisky District Police Department. Preventive supervision was terminated due to the fact that he was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment.

On December 5, 2013 Vasil Parfiankou was placed in a pre-trial investigation center in Minsk, then transferred to such another center in Zhadzino. Currently, Vasil is awaiting transfer to Gorki Penal Colony, notorious for torturing political prisoner Zmitzer Dashkevich, who has been since released.



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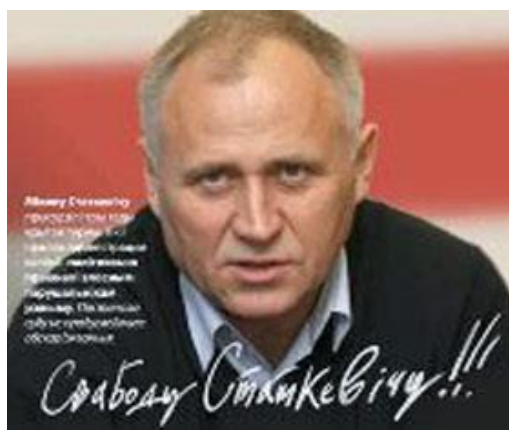
7. Artsiom Prakapenka – Social activist, born on July 27, 1990 in Hrodna. Detained on January 17, 2011, convicted on May 18, 2011 by Babruysk District and Municipal Court under Article 339(2) (malicious hooliganism) and 218(3) (property damage in an especially large amount) and sentenced to seven years in a maximum security prison.

While Prakapenka was at Penal Colony No. 17 in Škłoŭ, no information was received about his punishment for violating regulations. Nevertheless, disciplinary punishments started as soon as he was transferred to Penal Colony No. 15 in Mahiliou in May 2012. By June 14, 2012, Prakapenka received his fourth punishment in being deprived of his next short meeting, and was given the status of “flagrant violator of regulations”, thus depriving him of the ability to qualify under the law “On Amnesty” or to have his term reduced. It also reduced the amount of money that he can spend on food and other essential items at the penal colony’s kiosk from 650,000 to 260,000 Belarusian rubles (approximately 20 Euros).

In accordance with the rules for serving his sentence, Prakapenka is entitled to two long meetings, three short meetings, and three 2kg parcels. The punishments he received led to restrictions on packages (he received only one 30kg package of the three allowed annually). There were also problems receiving medical packages, even though Prakapenka has a number of medical conditions and, as a vegetarian, has special dietary needs. His medication was not accepted from the start, and only the most primitive medications have been allowed. It has been reported that he developed dental problems.

Prakapenka was deprived of a food parcel during a long stay meeting with his mother on June 21, 2013. At the end of September 2013, his parents learned that his long stay meeting with them, scheduled for December 2013, had been cancelled and that Prakapenka still has “flagrant violator” status.

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8. Mikalai Statkevich – Chairman of the Belarusian Social Democratic Party (*Narodnaya Gramada*). Born August 12, 1956. Previously sentenced in 2005 to three years in prison for organising a street action in Minsk against the official results of the parliamentary elections and a referendum in October 2004. Granted conditional early release in 2007.

Registered as a candidate in the 2010 Belarusian presidential election. Arrested on 20 December 2010. Went on a hunger strike on 19 December 2010 that lasted until 12 January 12, 2011 at his KGB pretrial detention facility, where he faced physical and psychological pressure, and where his access to his lawyer was restricted.

Convicted on May 26, 2011 by the Partizansky District Court of Minsk under Article 293(1) of the Criminal Code (organising mass unrest accompanied by violence against individuals, pogroms, arson, destruction of property, and armed resistance to government representatives). He was sentenced to six years in a maximum security prison.¹¹

Statkevich started serving his sentence at a penal colony in Škłoŭ, where he injured his hand while working at a saw mill in September 2011. The penal colony’s administration kept quiet about this injury and denied him meetings with his relatives. He was also denied phone calls home and suffered emotional pressure.

Between 2010 and 2011, Statkevich was punished 11 times for “violating regulations for serving a sentence”. For example, on October 26, 2011 he was “at his work place wearing clothing that violated the dress code: his lapel badge was missing” and was thus deprived of his next long meeting (the first possible one). However, Statkevich was not issued the proper special clothing and footwear to work at the saw mill, which resulted in two injuries. Those guilty for this were not prosecuted. On 8 December 2011, Statkevich was sent to the punishment isolation cell for five days for “a discrepancy between his personal belongings and essential items and the inventory list” (scarf). On 9 December 2011, he was classified as a “flagrant violator of the established order for serving a sentence.” On 15 December 2011, he allegedly “created a conflict with prisoner Alsiyevich”, for which he was moved to cell-type accommodations for one month.

¹¹ For an analysis of the case in English see, “The Human Rights Center Viasna’s evaluation of the trials in the criminal cases on the events of December 19, 2010”, Human Rights Center Viasna, available at: <http://spring96.org/en/news/43495>.

At a closed session on January 12, 2012, the Škloŭ District Court changed the terms of Statkevich's sentence to a more severe term of three years imprisonment. This decision was based on the abovementioned "malicious violation of regulations". Four days later, our organisations learned that he was at Prison No. 4 in Mahiliou, in much harsher conditions of detention. It turned out that one hour before his transfer, Statkevich was given a punishment of ten days in a punishment isolation cell, allegedly for "failure to clean his cell-type accommodation". Statkevich "served" these ten days in Prison No. 4, right after his transfer. According to information we received, there was no window in the punishment isolation cell. In its place was a wooden door, which offered little protection from the cold and drafts (the outside temperature on those days ranged from -12°C and 22°C).

It later became known that, in addition to everything else, the administration at the penal colony in Škloŭ classified Statkevich as "prone to escape and assault". This meant that he would be held especially strictly to account and subjected to regular searches and supervision.

In 2012-2013, during his time at Prison No. 4, Statkevich was subjected to disciplinary punishments many times. Moreover, since his imprisonment began, Statkevich has faced pressure, including demands to sign a petition for pardon. To achieve this goal, the administration has organised various provocations, including in the selection of the category of his cellmates. However, in the beginning of August 2013, Statkevich's status of "flagrant violator" was dropped.

Under his conditions of detention, Statkevich is currently allowed two short meetings a year, one food package, two small parcels, one and a half hour of walking a day, and two basic units a month for purchasing necessities (approximately 20 Euros).

For the duration of his sentence, the prison administration has exerted pressure on Statkevich and his correspondence has been repeatedly restricted. On August 12, 2013, more than 900 letters were sent to the political prisoner on his birthday. However, the administration of Mahiliou prison No.4 refused to pass him these postcards and greetings.



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9. Yauhen Vaskovich – Social activist and member of the Belarusian Christian Democratic Party. Born on February 26, 1990 in Babruysk. Arrested on January 17, 2011 and convicted on May 18, 2011 by Babruysk District and Municipal Court under Article 339(2) of the Criminal Code (malicious hooliganism) and Article 218(2) of the Criminal Code (property damage in an especially large amount). Sentenced to seven years in a maximum security prison.

Since he began serving his sentence, Vaskovich has had over forty disciplinary punishments, the details of which have so far been very hard to obtain, sometimes impossible. Eighteen of these punishments were imposed at Penal Colony No. 15 in Mahiliou. Four of these 18 involved confinement in a punishment isolation cell, and in accordance with an administration decision in 2012, Vaskovich was moved to cell-type accommodations for a month for the gross and systematic violation of internal regulations. In the fall of 2011, he was given the status of “flagrant violator of regulations”. Under a court decision issued 12 October 2011, the terms of Vaskovich’s sentence were made harsher and he was transferred to Prison No. 4 in Mahiliou. On 24 July 2013, Vaskovich was placed again for 10 days in isolation cell, the reason of which remains unknown.

By the time of this publication, altogether Vaskovich had 43 disciplinary punishments, twenty-six of these he was in confinement in a punishment isolation cell for 5 to 10 days (mainly for “violating isolation measures” and “hanging cloth to isolate his bunk”). As Vaskovich has been sentenced to a strict punishment regime, he is entitled to only two short meetings a year and one 2 kg parcel. As a “flagrant violator of regulations”, he can only make purchases from the prison kiosk once a month for 100,000 Belarusian rubles (approximately 10 Euros).

For the duration of his sentence, the prison administration has exerted pressure on Vaskovich and his correspondence has been repeatedly restricted. Over the last year he was allowed only one visit with his mother.

II. Particularities of the Procedural Status of some Individuals Convicted for Political Reasons¹²

In addition to the 9 political prisoners referred to above, there is a group of people who have been convicted or prosecuted in politically motivated criminal cases, resulting in significant restrictions on their freedom. Sviataslau Baranovich was sentenced to a 3 year punishment known as *domashnyaya khmiya* (which is a restriction on freedom without assignment to an open correctional facility) under a judgment issued by the Moscow District Court in Minsk on October 12, 2011. He is subjected to this punishment in connection with his participation in the demonstration on 19 December 19, 2010¹³. Baranovich must be at home at an appointed time, he is regularly checked by the supervisory agency (the police) and is allowed to travel to other cities or abroad only with the permission of this agency. Zmitser Miadzvedz and Andrey Pozdnyak were subjected

¹² For the updated list see: список <http://palitviazni.info/vid/%D1%81-%D0%BE%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%87%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5%D0%BC-%D1%81%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%BE%D0%B4%D1%8B?lang=ru> <http://palitviazni.info/vid/restriction-of-freedom?lang=en>.

¹³ For details see <http://spring96.org/ru/news/43491>

to the same type of punishment earlier (they served their term and were released in 2013). Currently, their names are put on watch list.

III. Preventive Supervision of Pardoned Individuals and Individuals who served their term

As the convictions of political prisoners released under pardons since August 2011 have not been expunged, they continue to be subject to procedural measures that are applicable to individuals with a criminal record. All the individuals released under pardons or after the term of their sentence have been placed on **watch lists**, giving police officials the right to visit them since their record of conviction has not been expunged. If they are brought into custody on administrative charges three times in one year, they face **preventive supervision**, which carries more serious restrictions.

Currently, there are three activists on preventive supervision:

1) Pavel Vinahradau – Activist of Zmena movement who was pardoned for participation in the mass unrest in August of 2011 and on April 10, 2012 placed under preventive supervision for a period of two years under a judgment issued by the Moscow District Court for administrative violations and his public activities. This former political prisoner is prohibited from leaving Minsk without permission from the police. If Vinahradau violates his preventive supervision requirements three times, he may be prosecuted. On February 28, 2013, Vinahradau was condemned to 7 days of administrative detention for a second violation. On March 14, Vinahradau was sentenced to 25 days of arrest under Articles 17.1 of the Code of Administrative Offenses (disorderly conduct) and 23.4 (resistance to the police), while he was at the police station for regular registration. On 25 April 2014, Vinahradau's preventive supervision was supposed to come to an end, but on 24 April 2014 Pavel was brought to the Moscow District Court under the police escort and judge Tatsiana Motyl extended the preventive watch for additional 3 months.

2) Zmitser Dashkevich – Leader of the *Molodoy Front* (Young Front organisation). On August 13, 2013, two weeks before his release from Prison No. 1 in Hrodna, the court placed Dashkevich under preventive supervision for six months starting from the moment of his release on August 28, 2013. The reason given by the Court was that Dashkevich was considered to have engaged in “bad behaviour” while in prison. Currently, Dashkevich has been charged with one violation of the terms of his preventive supervision and he can be criminally charged if the number of violations gets to three.

3) Mikalai Autukhovich - Veteran of the war in Afghanistan, successful entrepreneur and democracy activist. He was released on April 8, 2014, political prisoner, but he was placed under preventive supervision from the day of his release for 1 year and 4 months, as ruled by the court of Grodno prison on March 18, 2014. If Autukhovich violates his preventive supervision requirements three times, he may be prosecuted

IV. Limitations Imposed on Previously Released Persons

As to the 28 former prisoners that were pardoned or paroled in 2011-2013, their criminal records have not been expunged, for which reason they are still deprived of many civil

and political rights, such as the right to run for a public office or be employed by the government. Those convicted of inciting mass riots are deprived of such rights for a period of 8 years; those convicted of taking part in mass riots – for a period of 5 years; of disorderly conduct as part of a group – for a period of 2 years from the moment of their release (whether it is an early release or that they served their entire sentence).

Moreover, as per the law of the country, upon release, the names of all activists automatically remain on **preventive watch** lists maintained by internal affairs agencies, making them vulnerable to regular police visits. Should they be charged with three administrative violations within a year, they may be subjected to even stricter **preventive supervision** that would limit their rights and freedom of movement even further (this is what is currently happening with Pavel Vinahradau, Zmitser Dashkevich and Mikalai Autukhovich).

Please find below the list of individuals who are currently on preventive watch list as a result of criminal persecution for the events in 2010 :

1. Dmitry Bondarenko
2. Dmitriy Bulanov
3. Dmitry Doronin
4. Dmitry Drozd
5. Oleg Fedorkevich
6. Oleg Gnedchik
7. Serguey Kazakov
8. Vladimir Khomichenko
9. Ales Kirkevich
10. Alexander Klaskousky
11. Aliaksandr Kviatkevich
12. Nikita Likhovid
13. Vladimir Loban
14. Vitali Matsukevich
15. Zmitser Miadzvedz
16. Fedor Mirzoyanov
17. Alexander Molchanov
18. Zmitser Novik
19. Alexander Otroshchenkov
20. Andrei Poznyak
21. Andrei Protasenya
22. Andrei Sannikov
23. Pavel Sieviaryniets – released after serving his term
24. Yevgeny Secret
25. Pavel Syromolotov – “Bobruisk case”, pardoned.
26. Dmitry Uss
27. Ilya Vasilevich
28. Uladzimir Yaromenak