



SEEKING JUSTICE AND FREEDOM IN BELARUS

Witness Biographies

Serge Kharytonau

Media Expert, International Strategic Action Network for Security (iSANS)

Serge Kharytonau is an iSANS media expert and World Journalist Fellow at the NYU's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. He is currently based in New York City.

Since 2011, Mr. Kharytonau has contributed to a wide range of European, American, and Belarusian media, including two years as a foreign correspondent for Current Time in Belarus. Current Time is a U.S.-funded TV channel operated jointly by Radio Liberty and the Voice of America.

In 2020, Mr. Kharytonau was nominated for the 'Journalist of the Year' award of the Assembly of NGOs of Belarus.

Prior to the current political crisis in Belarus, Mr. Kharytonau served as National Digital Communications Consultant for UNICEF Belarus at an early stage of COVID-19 response.

Mr. Kharytonau's research is focused on the role of Kremlin-led propaganda in Russia's hybrid operations, its networks of influence, and monitoring of propaganda, hate speech, and incitement to violence in media networks controlled by Aliaksandr Lukashenka and his subordinates.

Tatsiana Khomich

Coordination Council's Representative for political prisoners; former presidential candidate and political prisoner Viktor Babaryka's Team Coordinator; sister of political prisoner Maria Kalesnikava

Tatsiana Khomich joined the team of Viktor Babaryka—a presidential contender in the 2020 presidential elections—as a media manager in May 2020. She is the representative for political prisoners of the Coordination Council, created to facilitate a peaceful transfer of power in the wake of the presidential election.

Tatsiana is the sister of Maria Kalesnikava, a political prisoner and prisoner of conscience. Since Maria was detained in September 2020, Tatsiana became "a voice" of Maria as well as all political prisoners in Belarus and has been doing public advocacy to bring attention to the situation of politically motivated prosecution and human rights violations in Belarus.

David J. Kramer

Senior Fellow, Florida International University

David J. Kramer joined Florida International University's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs as Senior Fellow in the Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy in May 2017; he is also Director for European and Eurasian Studies. Before moving to Miami, Kramer worked in Washington, DC for 24 years, most recently with the McCain Institute for International Leadership as Senior Director for Human Rights and Democracy. Previously, he served for four years as President of Freedom House. Prior to that, he was a Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Kramer served eight years in the U.S. Department of State during the administration of President George W. Bush, including as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs (responsible for Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus affairs as well as regional non-proliferation issues); Professional Staff Member in the Secretary's Office of Policy Planning; and Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary for Global Affairs. He also was Executive Director of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy in Washington. He is author of the book, *Back to Containment: Dealing with Putin's Regime*.

Siarhej Zikratski

Representative on Legal Affairs, Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya

Siarhej Zikratski received his education in Belarus, with additional education in the United Kingdom, Latvia, and Poland. Since 2011, he has been doing his own legal practice in Belarus. Siarhej Zikratski specialized in legal aid to Belarusian business, media, and IT companies. During the presidential electoral campaign in Belarus 2020 and after the elections, he provided legal aid to activists and journalists. He defended Belarusian media TUT.BY in politically motivated trials, Belsat journalist Katsiaryna Andreyeva, program director of the Press Club Alla Sharko, and was one of the defenders of lawyer and member of the Coordination Council Maxim Znak. In March, Zikratski was expelled from the Belarusian National Bar Association. Zikratski has been Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya's Representative on Legal Affairs since May 2021.

In his current position, Siarhej Zikratski prepares and provides legal analysis and evaluation of documents, decisions, and statements taken in the Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. He also provides legal analysis and assessment of Belarusian legislation and other legal acts in terms of their conformity with the constitution and their impact on the rights and freedoms of citizens and develops reform of legal and institutional mechanisms for the protection of rights and freedoms in accordance with the constitution and the international obligations of Belarus.