

# Political Prisoners Associated with the Cultural Sphere\*

1. **Ihar Alinieich**, Writer, anarchist activist, cultural figure (recipient of the Frantsishak Aliakhnovich Prize 2013), sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 3, Vitsebsk region, Vitba settlement. Included on the list of terrorists.
2. **Andrei Aliaksandrau**, Poet, journalist, media manager, cultural figure (recipient of the Frantsishak Aliakhnovich Prize 2021), sentenced to 14 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 1, Navapolatsk. Included on the list of extremists.
3. **Neli Alfiorava**, Activist, cultural figure. Subjected to forced psychiatric treatment. Location of detention being clarified.
4. **Katsiaryna Andreeva (Bakhvalava)**, Journalist, writer, cultural figure. Sentenced to 8 years and 3 months of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 4, Homiel. Included on the list of extremists.
5. **Armen Arzumanian**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 6 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 15, Mahiliou.
6. **Viachaslau Areshka**, 70 years old, Archivist, culturologist, historian, public figure. Sentenced to 13 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 22. Suffers from severe vision problems, can barely see, but is not allowed to register disability in the colony.
7. **Viktar Babaryka**, Art manager, patron of the arts, cultural figure. Sentenced to 14 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 1, Navapolatsk. Has heart problems.
8. **Eduard Babaryka**, Head of crowdfunding platforms, cultural figure. Sentenced to 8 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Centre No. 1. Included on the list of extremists.
9. **Pavel Belavus**, 38 years old, Art manager, co-founder and former director of “Art Syadziba,” creator and manager of Symbal.by store, manager of the Amaroka band and singer Vinsent, head of the “Godna” company. Sentenced to 13 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 17. Included on the list of terrorists.
10. **Yauhen Boyka**, historian, ethnographer. Sentenced to 5 years in a maximum security colony. Last known location – Pre-trial detention center-1.
11. **Yauhen Burlo**, 34 years old, Musician of “Tor Band”. Sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 3, Vitsebsk region, Vitba settlement. Included on the list of extremists. Was on crutches at

sentencing, moves with difficulty ; requires hip surgery. Health issues developed and persist due to a previous sentence, and medication cannot be delivered. The “Tor band” group was declared an “extremist group”.

12. **Ales Bialiatski**, 63 years old, Writer, publicist, human rights defender, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize 2022 and other awards. Sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 9, Horki. Included on the list of extremists.
13. **Vadzim Vasilyeu**, 31 year old, Lighting designer at “Lyalka” theater. Sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 2.
14. **Ivan Viarbitski**, 60 years old, Artist, animator, video editing director. Sentenced to 10 years and 1 month of imprisonment. Place of detention: Prison No. 4.
15. **Dzmitryi Halavach**, 43 years old, Rock musician. Sentenced to 9 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 1.
16. **Ihar Haluszka**, Local historian, organizer of hiking tours, cultural figure. Sentenced to 2 years and 6 months of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 3, Vitsebsk region, Vitba settlement. Included on the list of extremists.
17. **Uladzimir Harokh**, 52 years old, Woodworker, craftsman. Sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Prison No. 4. Included on the list of extremists. Subjected to systematic physical abuse in Shklou colony.
18. **Cheslaw Herasimovich**, Musician of “Viedzma” band. Sentenced to 5 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 2.
19. **Yauhen Hlushkou**, 35 years old, Artistic director of instrumental ensembles, band “Dzietsi Nieba”. Sentenced to 4.5 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 1.
20. **Alena Hnauk**, 65 years old, Publicist, activist. Sentenced to 4.5 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 24. Included on the list of extremists. Her health has deteriorated in prison. Constantly subjected to physical and psychological pressure.
21. **Uladzimir Hundar**, 60 years old, Local historian from Baranavichy, writer-activist. Sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Prison No. 4. Included on the list of terrorists. Has a second-group disability (no legs). Partially lost hearing during imprisonment.
22. **Hleb Dudko**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment. Location of detention being clarified.
23. **Yahor Dudnikau**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment. Location of detention being clarified.
24. **Yahor Zianchanka**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 3 years of

imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 22, Ivatsevichy.

- 25. Zelyanko Aleh**, 42 years old, historian, headed the historical club “Mindoug”. Location unknown.
- 26. Maksim Znak**, Musician, activist, public figure. Sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 3, Vitsebsk region, Vitba settlement. Included on the list of terrorists. Father of minor children.
- 27. Aliaksandr Ziankou**, 56 years old, Author of documentaries about culture and history of Belarus. Sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 15. Subjected to physical and psychological pressure, extremely harsh prison conditions.
- 28. Maryja Kalesnikava**, Musician, art manager, cultural figure. Sentenced to 11 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 4, Homiel. Included on the list of terrorists. Has stomach problems.
- 29. Uladzislau Karecki**, Worked for the film “Persian Lessons”. Sentenced to 5 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Prison No. 4.
- 30. Valeryia Kastsiuhova**, 57 years old, Political scientist, founder and editor of “Our Opinion” expert community website, editor and author of “Development of the Situation in Belarus Over the Year” (“Belarusian Yearbook”) analytical reviews, head of “Belarus in Focus” expert monitoring group. Sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 4.
- 31. Aleh Katsapau**, Poet, public figure, popularizer of Belarusian history and culture. Sentenced to 2 years and 6 months of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 11.
- 32. Viktor Katouski**, Bass guitarist of TerraKod band. Sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Centre No. 7. Included on the list of extremists.
- 33. Dzmitry Kubarau**, 29 years old, UX/UI designer. Sentenced to 8 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Prison No. 1. Father of many children.
- 34. Tatsiana Kouzina**, 52 years old, Co-founder of Sympa School for Young Managers in Public Administration, expert of the “Bipartisan” research project, Master of Political Science. Sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 4.
- 35. Aliaksei Kuzmin**, 33 years old, Soloist of “Zakon Huka” musical group. Sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 4.
- 36. Mikhal Laban**, 41 year old, Craftsman, artist, owner of “Sarmorodak” jewelry workshop, which produces jewelry for historical reenactment groups, studied

Medieval history. Sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 2.

37. **Yuliya Laptanovich**, 37 years old, Librarian. Sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 4.
38. **Natallia Levaya**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 4, Homiel.
39. **Artsiom Makavei**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 15, Mahiliou.
40. **Siarhei Makarevich**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 12.
41. **Anastasiya Matsyash**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 4, Homiel.
42. **Alyaksandra Melnichak**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 2 years and 6 months of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 4, Homiel.
43. **Siarhei Nikitsiuk**, 36 years old, Musician. Sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 3, Vitsebsk region, Vitba settlement.
44. **Dzmitry Padrez**, 38 years old, Street-art artist. Sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 17.
45. **Eduard Palchys**, 34 years old, Blogger, publicist, art manager. Sentenced to 13 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Prison No. 4. Prison security level.
46. **Aliaksei Paretski**, 42 years old, Architect. Sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 1. Has health problems.
47. **Andrzej Poczobut**, 52 years old, Journalist, poet, musician. Sentenced to 8 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 1. Has health problems.
48. **Uladzislau Plushchau**, 52 years old, Musician, played in bands "Krambambulya," ZET, "Pomidor/off," and "Hasta la Falsta". Sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 1.
49. **Andre Raptunovich**, 22 years old, Artist, teacher. Sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 1.
50. **Ihar Rymasheuski**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 3, Vitsebsk region, Vitba settlement.
51. **Ales Sabaleuski**, 57 years old, Blogger and journalist. Sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment.

- 52. Uladzisiau Savin**, 46 years old, Producer, blogger, poet. Sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 2.
- 53. Kim Samusenka**, 36 years old, Historical reenactor and civic activist. Sentenced to 6.5 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 15.
- 54. Aliaksei Sanchuk**, 34 years old, Musician. Sentenced to 6 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 17.
- 55. Siarhei Satsuk**, 57 years old, Science fiction writer, journalist. Sentenced to 8 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 15.
- 56. Pavel Seviarynets**, 48 years old, Writer, co-founder of the Belarusian Christian Democracy party, laureate of the Ales Adamovich Literary Prize of PEN Belarus and the Frantsishak Aliakhnovich Prize, the Vasil Bykau Prize “For Freedom of Thought” (2008), the “For Personal Courage” People’s Prize (2008). Sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Prison No. 1. Prison security level.
- 57. Pavel Spiryn**, 41 year old, Blogger, documentarian. Sentenced to 4.5 years of imprisonment.
- 58. Rastislau Stefanovich**, 37 years old, Designer, architect. Sentenced to 8 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 17. Has health problems.
- 59. Aliaksandr Fiaduta**, 60 years old, Belarusian political commentator, literary critic, Doctor of Philology, member of the Belarusian Association of Journalists, the Union of Belarusian Writers, and PEN Belarus, honorary member of PEN Lithuania. Sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 15. Has health problems.
- 60. Aliaksandr Franckevich**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 17 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 22, Ivatsevichy.
- 61. Zmicier Shalak**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment. Location of detention being clarified.
- 62. Liudmila Shchamialova**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 4, Homiel.
- 63. Andrei Yaremchyk**, Bass guitarist of “Tor Band”, cultural figure. Sentenced to 7 years and 6 months of imprisonment. Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Centre No. 3. Included on the list of extremists.
- 64. Uladzimir Fishman**, Activist, cultural figure. Sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment. Place of detention: Penal Colony No. 17, Shklou.
- 65. Aleh Khamenka**, belarusian musician, radio host, teacher, composer, cultural leader, producer, leader of the folk-modern group “Palats”.

\*this list does not include cultural figures who are serving sentences under house arrest.

The list is compiled based on data from human rights organizations Viasna, Dissident BY, Belarusian PEN, and the Belarusian Council of Culture's own information.