



Deutscher Bundestag

Visiting the exhibition

The exhibition runs from 12 June to 5 July 2024 in the hall of the Paul Löbe Building and can be viewed from Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Public guided tours with representatives of Belarusische Gemeinschaft RAZAM e.V. will take place at 12 noon each Thursday and Friday during the course of the exhibition.

Advance booking is essential in order to visit the exhibition. Please register online using the form available at www.bundestag.de/parlamentarische_ausstellung at least two working days before the date you wish to visit.

Please note: When registering, the visitor's full name (first name and surname), date of birth, and a telephone number where they can be contacted must be included, along with the date and time of the planned visit. Hourly slots are available to begin the visit.

Access to the exhibition is through the west entrance to the Paul Löbe Building, Konrad-Adenauer-Str. 1, 10557 Berlin. Please report to staff at the west entrance 15 minutes before your visit is due to start, in order to allow enough time for pre-admission checks.



A mural in Vilnius in honour of Viasna's chairperson Ales Bialiatski.

RAZAM DE

BELARUSISCHE GEMEINSCHAFT

An exhibition by Belarusische Gemeinschaft RAZAM e.V., represented by Yuliya Salauyova, Karl-Marx-Allee 1, 10178 Berlin.

Up-to-date information about the exhibition and opportunities to visit is available via the link below or the QR code provided:



www.bundestag.de/ausstellung-ales-bialiatski

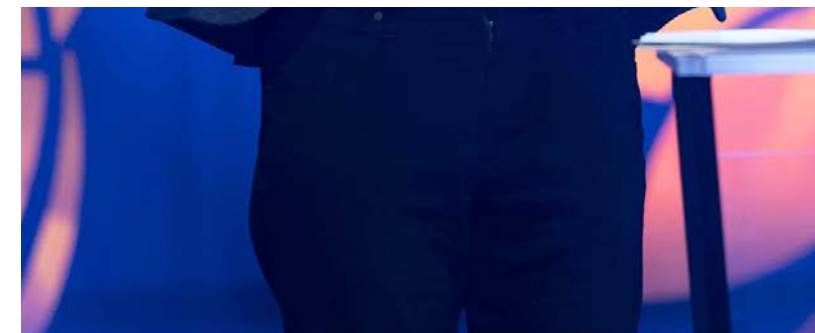
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**“I am not afraid, let them be afraid!” –
Ales Bialiatski
12 June – 5 July 2024**



The exhibition “I am not afraid, let them be afraid!” is dedicated to 2022 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bialiatski, founder and chairman of the Viasna Human Rights Center. Ales Bialiatski is a political prisoner. Since 14 July 2021, he has been behind bars, along with other human rights activists from Viasna.

The exhibition documents the complex and ongoing struggle by the Belarusian human rights activist for a democratic Belarus. It highlights the life and work of Ales Bialiatski and his efforts, over many years, to support the development and strengthening of civil society in Belarus.

■ Ales Bialiatski was born on 25 September 1962 in the town of Värtsilä in Karelia. Two years later, the family returned to Belarus and settled in Svyetlahorsk in the Gomel region.

■ In 1979, Ales Bialiatski began his studies of history and philology at Gomel State University. In 1984, he received his diploma as a teacher of philology.

■ In 1986, Ales Bialiatski was one of the co-founders of the Tuteyshyia Young Writers Society (The Locals) and was later elected chairperson.

■ On 19 October 1988, Bialiatski became a co-founder of Belarus's first human rights organisation, Martyrology of Belarus.



Ales Bialiatski at a protest against the Treaty on the Union of Russia and Belarus, Minsk, March 1996.

■ In 1989, Ales Bialiatski started working at the Maksim Bagdanovich Museum of the History of Belarusian Literature as a junior researcher. Later, he was elected director of the Museum, remaining there until August 1998.

■ In 1996, widespread protests against the government's failures in the handling of the Chernobyl disaster were brutally crushed. More than 200 people were imprisoned. In response, activists founded the Viasna-96 human rights initiative, which later became the Viasna Human Rights Center. Its founder, Ales Bialiatski, remains the chairman of the organisation to this day.

■ On 4 August 2011, Ales Bialiatski was arrested on charges of “concealment of profits on an especially large scale”. The indictment was clearly politically motivated. On 24 November 2011, he was sentenced to four and a half years of imprisonment in a high-security penal colony, with confiscation of his assets. Ales Bialiatski was granted an amnesty on 21 June 2014.

In 2020, the largest mass protests in Belarus's history took place. The Belarusian people refused to accept the rigged results of the presidential elections and took to the streets to make their voices heard.



Ales Bialiatski with singer Andrei Melnikov at an opposition protest in front of the opera house, Minsk, 1997.

During the peaceful protests in 2020/2021, tens of thousands of people were arrested, humiliated and tortured. They included well-known politicians, musicians, athletes, doctors and many others who had expressed their opinions publicly. Since August 2020, 2,690 people have been in detention as political prisoners in Belarus and 1,280 NGOs have been forced to close.

As part of its “Human Rights Defenders for Free Elections” campaign, Viasna observed the elections and helped victims of repression. The arrest of 11 Viasna members, including Ales Bialiatski, Valiantsin Stefanovich and Uladsimir Labkovich, on 14 July 2021 did not stop the organisation's activities. Ales Bialiatski was sent to Pre-Trial Detention Centre No. 1 in Minsk, known as “Valadarka”. His trial began on 9 February 2023, with the public prosecutor requesting a prison sentence of 12 years. On 13 February 2023, Ales Bialiatski delivered his statement to the court in the Belarusian language. On 3 March 2023, he was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a medium-security penal colony and fined the equivalent of 60,000 US dollars. The other human rights activists involved in the case were also sentenced to imprisonment.



On 3 March 2023, harsh prison sentences were imposed on Viasna human rights defenders Ales Bialiatski (10 years), Valentin Stefanovich (nine years), Uladzimir Labkovich (seven years) and Dmitriy Solovyov (eight years).