

Schittich, Klaus (2025): Open letter to the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Latvia on the case of Tatjana Andriječa.

[Translation]

Original text see website post: <https://www.worldcitizens.de/bibliothek/schittich-klaus-2025-brief-zum-fall-tatjana-andriječa.html>

Minister of Justice
of the Republic of Latvia
Dr. jur. Inese Lībiņa-Egnere

July 31, 2025

Dear Minister,

Please forgive me for writing to you in German. I hope that my impoliteness is less serious,, as you have lived in Germany for some time and are familiar with the language. Furthermore, this letter comes from Freiburg, a city with which I hope you have fond memories.

My name is Klaus Schittich, I am a retired senior teacher and have been active in political and civil society peace and human rights work for decades. Until shortly before her death in 2017, my wife and I for many years worked on a non-employed basis as NGO-accreditees with the UN in Vienna on behalf of the then San Francisco-based Association of World Citizens.

As an outsider, it is not my place to interfere in your country's politics, to criticise or to point fingers – rest assured that I am well aware of this.

Nevertheless, I would like to address you because of my my deepest concern for human rights and for humanity in relation to the case of Tatjana Andriječa. It is a twofold concern that has prompted me to write to you.

1. My concern is based on the case of **Tatjana Andriječa**, a student from Riga, with whom I am quite familiar through personal contacts with friends of my late wife.

This is how I understand the case:

In 2023, Tatjana Andriječa was detained for eight months, apparently at the instigation of your country's state security service (VDD), as a

warning to this young woman who was alleged of subversive activities.

In May 2025, her trial was opened in a manner that hardly meets the standards of the rule of law. Although she was in hospital due to mental exhaustion – probably due to anxiety about the upcoming court hearing – she was suddenly summoned to a screen on May 8, with only 10 minutes' notice. The hearing was opened online without legal representation and regardless of the acute patient's inability to participate in the proceedings. I was shocked by the cynicism with which Judge Feldmanis treated the young woman. When she objected that she was in hospital, unfit to stand trial, and unprepared for the hearing, he countered that it had been her decision to go to the hospital and that it was her decision how long she would prepare for the hearing. The judge was aware that Tatjana Andrijecka had been taken to the hospital by ambulance.

At the current stage of the trial, Ms. Andrijecka is being accused, completely without foundation, of founding a subversive organisation in the form of a TELEGRAM channel, namely the "Baltic Antifascists." This completely ignores the fact that the two operators of the channel, who live in Russia, have repeatedly stated in a legally valid manner that Tatjana Andrijecka had nothing to do with their channel and continues to have nothing to do with it.

It seems that the VDD is insisting on making an example of this completely innocent young woman –as a deterrent to everyone else. Under the laws of your country, Tatjana Andrijecka faces a life sentence.

2. In my opinion, Tatjana Andrijecka's renewed imprisonment would not stand up to scrutiny by the European Court of Human Rights. It would be disastrous if your respected country were to gain a reputation as an unjust state. Nobody wants that, my friends here in Germany don't want that, and I don't want that.

As an outsider, it is not my place to make demands of you, Madam Minister.

I can only ask you to do everything in your power to ensure that Tatjana Andrijecka is not subjected to an unjust sentence, but that the proceedings against her are discontinued immediately. I also ask you to work toward the release of all political prisoners in your country.

I ask you to do both on behalf of my contacts and for humanitarian reasons, which are reflected in the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), among others.

These include: respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

Let me conclude by saying the following, which is my deepest conviction. I think it would be wonderful if the state would support those who are working non-violently for mutual respect, reconciliation and the balancing of interests. I am convinced that Tatjana Andriječa, as a Latvian citizen, is one of those who are committed to a respectful balance of interests and reconciliation.

Please help this intelligent, honest, life-affirming young woman to unreservedly love and represent her country just as it is. Help to make this woman an inclusive, conciliatory public figure who does her country good. Because – as I gather from the letters she has written to me – that is what she wants to do: do her country good. Otherwise, she might have left it long ago. I am sure I am not mistaken about Tatjana Andriječa.

I would be grateful for your reply.

With kind regards from Freiburg

Yours sincerely

(handwritten)

Klaus Schittich