



Schittich, Klaus (2025): Latvia: Tatjana doesn't belong in jail.

Political justice in Latvia has the makings of a European scandal.
[Translation]

[Original text see website post: <https://www.worldcitizens.de/d-i-b-beitraege/lettland-lettland-tatjana-gehoert-nicht-in-den-knast-1.html>]

A quote¹: **"Tatjana and A. Z. [a co-defendant] face life imprisonment."** This plain sentence appears on page 3 of the expert opinion² of a legal expert from Riga (Latvia) on the case of student Tatjana Andrjeka. It has been submitted to d.i.b. editorial team. The expert opinion raises questions that the public in Germany and throughout Europe should urgently address. Behind this sentence lies a political scandal in Europe that is unparalleled.

The monster woman

Let's start with what the Tatjana did not do: She did not murder anyone, she was not involved in genocide, she did not commit any war crimes, she did not rob or blackmail anyone "with fatal consequences," nor did she hijack an airplane and shoot the hostages one after the other. Just to list a few common notions of the most serious crimes.

Hold on, hold on, you say, my readers, what has Tatjana done that this hefty catalog is not enough for her? What kind of monster woman, what kind of beast are we talking about?

In Germany, Tatjana would hardly be talked about, and certainly not in a legal context. It's quite different in her home country of Latvia. There, she is considered an enemy within by the State Security Service (VDD) and, in its wake, by the country's judiciary, who believe she must be locked away forever.

The Republic of Latvia is a member state of the European Union and must fully respect its legal, political, and ethical norms and agree-

ments. Unfortunately, it is to be feared that significant parts of these standards do not apply in Latvia. Reliable sources suggest that there is 'initial suspicion' that Latvia may be an unjust state. For, despite all due restraint, the events surrounding Tatjana can hardly be interpreted as anything other than measures taken by a political judiciary that is far distant from the rule of law.

Tatjana is accused – according to our information, completely unjustifiably – of having founded a criminal organization, namely the Telegram channel "Baltic Antifascists." This is despite the fact that the administrators of the channel, who live in Russia, have repeatedly stated in a legally valid manner that neither Tatjana nor A. Z. were or are connected to the channel.

As reported at the beginning: "Tatjana and A. Z. face life imprisonment." Other offences fantasized by the Latvian judiciary in the spring of 2024 included: Call to Act Against the Republic of Latvia; Justification of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, Peace, or War; Recruitment, Training, and Deployment for Armed Conflict.

The young woman

I have been in correspondence with Tatjana since April 2025. She strikes me as a very intelligent, multi-talented person with a strong sense of social responsibility. Her mother is ethnic Russian, Tatjana also counts herself among the minority (just under 30%) of Russian-speaking people within Latvia's total population of 1.8 million. She is a Latvian citizen.

What struck me most about Tatjana's CV was her unusually high level of self-awareness and thoughtful approach to life. One example: After two semesters of studying medicine, she took a break from her studies and worked for a year in a specialist clinic for cancer. She did this solely to make sure she wasn't heading for the wrong career. She is now a philologist and cultural scientist, has a bachelor's degree, and is working toward her master's. Tatjana is a life-affirming young woman who, despite everything, loves her country and wants to stay in Latvia. She wants to complete her master's degree and continue to work nonviolently for the recognition and appreciation of the culture and rights of her ethnic group.

And she wants to do everything that people her age do. Climbing in Poland, going to the sea, hiking, camping, canoeing, traveling, playing the violin, being happy, and sometimes being silly. Or making vi-

deos with her friends. I'm showing one of them to our readers. It shows Tatjana, battered, but fighting. It's from this year.³

The picture above is one from 'better days' showing Tatjana in 2020. Today she is thinner, fragile, her health marked by eight months in prison, but she is not broken. In my opinion, the Latvian state has already caused her harm in 2023, as will be shown.

The first arrest

After returning from St. Petersburg, where she had been studying for a while, Tatjana was arrested in Riga in 2023 and held in Riga Women's Prison for eight months without trial, at the young age of 23. This was a warning by the state, which accused her of subversive attitudes and activities.

An incident from this period reinforces the assumption that the Latvian justice system exhibits, to put it politely, certain anomalies.

The expert opinion states:

"While in prison, Tatjana was visited by individuals wearing balaclavas who did not identify themselves. They exerted psychological pressure on her, urging her to confess or incriminate other people. threatening that otherwise she would remain in prison for a long time."

I am certain that the description of this visit is not a figment of the imagination. I have complete trust in Tatjana and the person who wrote the expert opinion.

What had happened?

But can all this really be true? Surely people in Latvia aren't just randomly selected and thrown in jail, are they? There must have been something else going on! Yes, there was something.

Tatjana in her letter dated April 26, 2025:

It was in 2018 in the Latvian parliament. Plenary session. There were school principals and I as a school student, like a representative of a Russian schoolgirl who voluntarily transferred to a Latvian school. The Russian school principals spoke very carefully, and I realized that they were afraid to say what they really thought. And I thought that I had nothing to lose, unlike them, I was just a schoolgirl. So I said what I thought. Principal of my school who invited me was very angry with me... I guess I let her down.

Speaking in front of a gathered parliament at the age of 17 is one thing. Not playing the role that was forced upon her was another.

Namely, the role of the highly successful model Russian student who praises the blessings of Latvian schools and argues for the dispensability of Russian schools.

That was Tatjana at 17, believing in freedom of speech, committed only to the truth and to her own conscience. In our country [i.e. Germany, K. S.] she would probably have been asked to come up on stage at her high school graduation and given an award for civic courage or something like that. But she graduated from school in Riga.

Soon after her appearance in parliament, Tatjana discovered civil society goals for herself: campaigning for the preservation of Russian schools and the retention of Russian as a subject in schools, campaigning for legal equality for ethnic Russian "non-citizens,"⁴ campaigning for political prisoners. But there was a "but."

Tatjana in a letter dated July 4, 2025:

„It all started when I was 17. Pretty soon the Latvian special service began to take an interest in me - State Security service or Security Police. There were times when I was called in for "conversations", but I was very stubborn and believed that I should not give up the fight, that if someone has beliefs, he should be ready to suffer for his beliefs, if necessary.

"Suffer for his beliefs, if necessary." That is noteworthy. That is the language spoken by those who are oppressed in an unjust state. It is not the language of a free, democratic country.

The tragedy of a small country

Tatjana has been back in court since August 4, 2025. Can we stand by her, help her? I believe we can. I make suggestions in the section "What you can do" below.

Unfortunately, there is not enough space here to let Tatjana speak at length. But one passage from our correspondence belongs here, not only because it brings me to the next aspect of this article. We have discussed many things in our letters, from Shakespeare to James Baldwin, from Viennese classical music to Bruce Springsteen.

Tatjana wrote in her letter of July 16, 2025:

„The song "My Hometown" is very powerful and resonates in the soul. In Latvia, too, unfortunately, there is a lot of hostility, not racial, but national. And sometimes it seems to me that Russians in Latvia do not have their own real "Heimat", because Russia is not our real homeland, but at the same time in Latvia we are also considered

strangers." [Tatjana uses the German word "Heimat" in her English text.]

I don't presume to write about Latvia in a historically accurate and appropriate way. But it is certainly true that after the end of the Soviet Union (1990/91), Latvia was unable to reconcile the ancestral Latvian and the ethnic Russian populations. The process of coming to terms with the past and overcoming the traumas has not been successful. No truth and reconciliation commission was established, as was done in South Africa in the same decade.

The idea of creating a binational state in Latvia based on a fair balance of interests was a short-lived dream. People affected by this write to me saying that little has changed in 35 years. Living together seems characterised by the irrational revenge of the indigenous Latvians on the defunct Soviet Union, taken out on the ethnic Russians now living in Latvia. It is a great misfortune when revenge shapes the living together of a country. A rather elderly friend of Tatjana's describes her situation as follows: Everything that has happened to Tatjana and everything that could still happen to her is the state's revenge for – as Latvia sees it – the debacle in parliament at the time.

The situation has been coming to a head since 2022.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, violated international law, mutual distrust between the two population groups has intensified and feelings of revenge have escalated. Observers speak of Russophobia, a hatred of Russians that has become a kind of state religion in all areas of life. Here is just one example: a person can be imprisoned for displaying symbols hostile to the state. This happened to a woman who decorated a window of her apartment with numerous national flags in the spirit of international understanding. Unfortunately, the Russian flag was also among them: Svetlana N. was charged with dissidence and is serving a three-year prison sentence. A few days ago, she was denied a medical examination outside the prison on suspicion of cancer. For "security reasons."

Russophobia in public spaces in Latvia is taking on grotesque forms. In August 2022, the 79-meter-high obelisk commemorating the Red Army's victory over Nazi Germany was completely dismantled. A monument to the great Russian poet Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin was recently torn down. Streets are being renamed. Names such as Gogol Street, Lermontov Street, Turgenev Street, and others are all gone.

Pure barbarism.

This image of a numerically small, toxic in itself society must be kept in mind if one wants to understand the "case of Tatjana Andriječa."

The letter

After consulting with friends here in Germany, I wrote a polite, open letter⁵ to the Latvian Minister of Justice, Dr. jur. Inese Lībiņa-Egnere. However, I expressed my impression there: *"... the VDD⁶ insists that an example be made of this completely innocent young woman – as a deterrent to everybody."*

I am aware that it is not within the remit of a Minister of Justice to interfere in the work of the courts.

However, in my opinion, all reservations regarding jurisdiction cease to apply when it becomes apparent that serious human rights violations are at issue. Human rights are universal; otherwise, they are null and void. Human rights apply to everyone, and at the same time it is the duty of everyone to intervene where human rights are threatened.

Against this background, I have asked the minister to *"do everything in her power to ensure that Tatjana Andriječa is not subjected to an unjust verdict, but that the proceedings against her are dropped immediately."*

I will help Tatjana Andriječa to the best of my ability and will not look away. Objections that this is an internal Latvian matter, or even a resigned "nothing can be done" attitude, are not acceptable.

I ask you, my dear readers: Be inspired by the courage of Tatjana, who was 17 at the time. Stand by this 25-year-old woman who is now in dire straits.

Once again, Tatjana, in her first letter to me, dated April 16, 2025:

"Hello, dear Klaus!

My name is Tatjana Andriječa. Thank you very much for your interest in my case. I am very grateful to you. Unfortunately, I have experienced so much injustice in the justice system ... But I want the case to be transparent and open, because I have nothing to hide!

Thank you again for your help and support!

Kind regards,

Tatjana"

I cannot ensure on my own that Tatjana's case becomes transparent and public to as many people as possible. Please help me!

What you can do

[Paragraph adapted for readers living outside Germany, K. S.]

Raising public awareness at any cost is the only measure that can help Tatjana and keep her from a situation that could literally become life-threatening for Tatjana.

There are ways you can help.

1. Please read my letter to the minister [in our [library](#)] and write her a letter of your own.

Her addresses

Email: inese.Libina-Egnere@tm.gov.lv

Street address:

Minister for Justice of the Republic of Latvia
Ministry of Justice
36 Brīvības Boulevard,
Rīga, LV 1520
LATVIA

If you would like some help in wording a short letter:

Dear Minister,

I am aware of the case of Tatjana Andriječa, a student from Riga. In the name of human rights and humanity, I urge you to ensure that Tatjana Andriječa is not subjected to an unjust verdict and that the proceedings against her are dropped immediately.

With kind regards

Name

Town

Country

2. Contact the members of the parliament in your country.

3. Contact people in the media industry. We are talking about a European scandal.

4. Contact groups, parties, churches, explain the situation and ask for their help. Send them this article.

5. Forward this article to your friends, tell them what you have already done for Tatjana. It's contagious! Ask them to forward the article.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via "Contact" on the first page of this website.

Last sentence:

In a video (from 2013) about the anti-nuclear weapons camp in Faslane, Scotland, a lady activist says about supporting the camp: **"...like whatever you do, do something today, not next week."**

In case anyone doesn't know: Scottish ladies are always right.

I will keep you updated.

August 08, 2025

Klaus Schittich

Notes

1 Legal quotations and quotations from Tatjana's letters are in the original.

2 The expert opinion is not public; the d.i.b. team has assured the author that the source will remain anonymous. It can be made available to the media and committed groups or similar upon request.

3 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_C5tnYP4oM&ab_channel=TatjanaAndrijeca, accessed on 05.08.2025.

4 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-citizens_\(Latvia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-citizens_(Latvia))), accessed on 05.08.2025

5 The letter is in our [library](#). We expressly request that the letter be distributed to all media and quoted from.

6 State Security Service of Latvia