

Berezovskaya, Alla (2025): Witness testimony in the case of Tatjana Andrijeca, 19 August 2025.

[First published on 20 August 2025 on facebook, translation from Russian with the help of DeepL.]

I first met this girl seven years ago, when she was still in school — at a public event in Riga where I was present as a journalist.

The event was dedicated to the issues of minority education. That's where we met, and since then, we often saw each other at different events and meetings. Tanya impressed me with her sincerity, her desire to fight for justice, and to help those whom she believed needed it. It was clear that this girl had a very sensitive and delicate nature.

She would always passionately defend the offended and humiliated, never thinking of herself, and was always the first to come to someone's aid. For example, Tanya used to write letters of support to an elderly man in prison, a man she had never met, after learning that he had been unfairly, as she believed, accused of spying for Russia— simply because he had traveled there to visit relatives. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison and died there a few years later of a heart attack. Throughout those years, Tanya Andriets kept writing to him, sending newspapers, stamps, and envelopes to the prison.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Tanya created a volunteer group in Riga through social networks to help elderly people who couldn't go shopping themselves. She rode her bicycle around the city, carrying groceries up to fifth-floor apartments. I know that dozens of old people prayed for her health.

Another example: when Tanya learned that a high school girl was about to be expelled for poor academic performance, she, being a graduate of a physics and math class, personally took on preparing her for the math and physics exams. She even persuaded me to check the girl's German homework. By the way, that girl later passed all her exams successfully, and her life has turned out well—I recently spoke with her. She was also present in the support group at Tanya's trial.

The active civic stance of the young activist eventually attracted the displeasure of Latvia's political police, and Tanya began to have problems. That's why I was glad when, in the autumn of 2022, she went

to study in Saint Petersburg. With her knowledge of five foreign languages, I thought she could build a good career in any country, but she intended to return home to Latvia. And she also plays the violin quite well—you should definitely listen to her!

We often talked on the phone via Telegram. She told me that she had heard that migrants from Latvia faced many bureaucratic problems in Russia, and she wanted to help them adapt. I found this idea noble. From what Tanya told me, she shared this idea at a meeting with other Latvians in Russia. They seemed to support her in words, but soon went their separate ways.

Tanya later told me that she became disappointed with them, saying that at their meetings everyone just talked about politics and criticized Latvia. I remember her words: “They speak so radically because they’re not planning to return to Latvia. But I am! And now no one even talks about helping migrants, nor does anyone want to do anything.”

From Tanya’s story, I understood that instead, the former Riga residents in St. Petersburg decided to create a Telegram channel called “Antifascists of the Baltics.” This was at the end of 2022, probably in November.

I wasn’t subscribed to that channel myself, but I read in the Latvian media that it published a lot of hostile content against the Latvian authorities. Tanya assured me that she had nothing to do with it, that only her Latvian friend Vika worked there.

Nevertheless, when Tanya asked me whether she should go to Latvia for the holidays, I advised her not to. I was worried that because of her acquaintance and contact with Vika, she could also be linked to that channel, since Latvian media had started heavily criticizing it and demanding that the State Security Service take action. But what action could they take, if all the organizers were in Russia? They were out of reach.

However, there was a woman in Latvia who decided that a poster from the “Antifascists of the Baltics” channel with the words “Death to fascists!” was a personal threat to her. She filed a complaint with the State Security Service—not against Tanya, but against the Russian Telegram channel.

Obviously, society was looking for a sacrificial victim. And right on cue, from Saint Petersburg to Riga came the daughter of one Riga mother for winter holidays—the student of a St. Petersburg university, the very same Tatyana! She was acquainted with the Riga organizers of the channel and even posted photos with two activist girls on social media, one of whom was Vika, the channel’s administrator.

But once this “moth” flew into the flame, of course, she was immediately caught in the net—it would have been a sin not to take advantage of the situation.

On the evening of February 6, 2023, Tatyana Andriets was detained near her home. There was a search, then an interrogation without a lawyer, during which the investigator promised to release her immediately if she told him everything. But instead of letting the frightened 22-year-old student go, he charged her with several grave criminal offenses—each worse than the other: organizing a criminal group (punishable by up to 10 years in prison), inciting national hatred, and even recruiting volunteers for the front!

Apparently, the investigator hoped that at least one of the four charges would hold up in court.

For a girl as sensitive and emotionally fragile as Tatyana Andriets, the arrest became a severe psychological trauma. After eight months in a prison cell, her mental health was shattered. Outwardly, she tried not to show anything. When she was released under police supervision and a travel ban, she smiled and tried to seem cheerful, insisting that everything was fine. But her closest friends knew that at night she was afraid to fall asleep—afraid that when she woke up, she’d be back in prison.

Later, due to persistent nightmares, Tanya stopped eating, fainted from hunger on the street, and suffered from vomiting. She was one step away from anorexia. That’s why I have no doubt that putting Tatyana Andriets on trial in her current condition means subjecting her again to severe psychological stress that endangers her life—at a time when she needs serious treatment.

As for the accusations that 22-year-old Tatyana was the “organizer and leader” of an imaginary political criminal group, my opinion as a journalist who has written extensively on criminal cases is this: it is the result of the shameful and dishonest work of a State Security

Service investigator who, eager to please his superiors, sacrificed an innocent and naive young girl—essentially a defenseless child—because he couldn't reach the real culprits living in Russia.

Alla Berezovska, independent journalist and defense witness at the trial of Tatjana Andriječa.

Facebook 20 August 2025:

https://www.facebook.com/alla.berezovskaya.73/posts/pfbid09MJP2sQcMN-qEML5chtvXTEge37RjTjtuC8x3oYXGvsj9Dt5ijr9f3HKxm1z5roLdl?locale=de_DE

Note by the d.i.b. editorial team:

Alla Berezovska is a Latvian opposition journalist and freelancer. She collaborates with media outlets in Latvia and abroad and has over 40 years of experience in journalism. She is a member of the Latvian Journalists' Union.

Since 2022, on her own initiative, she has been running a public online magazine "Prison Bulletin" (ТЮРЕМНЫЙ ВЕСТНИК) and a Telegram channel of the same name. Its main focus is the protection of the rights of victims of political repression in the Baltic states.

<https://t.me/freedomtolinderman>