

ANDREI SANNIKOV

Belarusian politician, diplomat, and activist with decades of experience in international relations, diplomacy, and human rights advocacy. Former Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus and 2010 presidential candidate. Committed advocate for democracy, human rights, and freedom in Belarus.

EDUCATION

- **Minsk State Linguistic University**, Minsk, Belarus Graduated in 1977
- **Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, Moscow, USSR Graduated in 1989

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Head of Belarusian Delegation**, Nuclear and Conventional Weapons Disarmament Negotiations (1991-1996)
- **DCM, Charge d’Affairs** at Belarusian Mission to the UN Office in Geneva, Switzerland (1993-1995)
- **Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus** (1995-1996) resigned in protest against Lukashenko’s policies on the eve of the unlawful referendum of 1996
- **International Coordinator**, Charter’97 Human rights initiative inspired by Charter 77 (1997-2008)
- **Rector of People’s University**, non-formal educational project (1998-2002)
- **Presidential Candidate**, 2010 Belarusian Presidential Election. Received second highest percentage of popular votes.

ACTIVISM & AWARDS

- Co-founder of Charter 97, a prominent human rights group (1997)
- Co-created the Coordinating Council of Democratic Forces of Belarus (1999)
- Awarded the international Bruno Kreisky Prize (2005) for human rights accomplishments
- Initiated the civil campaign European Belarus (2008)
- Was one of the organizers of all major non-violent protests | 1997-2010
- **Post-Election Demonstration** (2010): Led demonstrations in Minsk following the presidential election results, experiencing severe police repression.
- **Imprisonment and Release** (2010-2012): Following the demonstrations, faced imprisonment on charges of igniting mass disorder. After enduring a 16-month incarceration, was released in April 2012 under the international pressure.
- **Continued Advocacy**: Despite facing personal risks and challenges, Sannikov continues to champion democracy, human rights, and freedom in Belarus from abroad.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Belarus in the context of times and politics, 1997 (together with Valiantsin Holubeu)
- “My Story: Belarusian Amerikanka or Elections Under Dictatorship”, 2016 (published in five languages).
- Belarus in NATO (editor, compilation of articles), 2023

Publishes extensively in Belarusian non-state media and leading international press.

Examples

<https://www.aei.org/articles/belaruss-terrorist-ties/>

<https://www.aei.org/articles/the-accidental-dictatorship-of-alexander-lukashenko/>

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26590431>

<https://euobserver.com/opinion/122187> <https://archive.kyivpost.com/article/opinion/op-ed/andrei-sannikov-belarus-is-a-litmus-test-for-values-354760.html>

<https://archive.kyivpost.com/article/opinion/op-ed/andrei-sannikov-why-is-europe-turning-its-back-on-ukraine369769.html>

<https://upnorth.eu/sannikov-west-must-support-belarusian-democratic-opposition/>

<https://lithuaniatribune.com/pandemics-lessons-for-astravets/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/supporting-belaruss-climb-out-from-under-dictatorship/> <https://www.eurozine.com/existence-without-life/> 2013/12/26/54aadd60-6c08-11e3-aecc-85cb037b7236_story.html

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/17/we-are-not-slaves-europe-most-repressive-state-reawakening-belarus>

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/today-belarus-matters?ref=author>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/16/opinions/whistleblower-dissident-democracy-autocracy-vindman-sannikov/index.html>

<https://wyborcza.pl/magazyn/7,124059,29051477,wojna-zawsze-zaczyna-sie-wczoraj-rosja-bialorus-ukraina.html>

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Gave lectures in European and American universities, as a key note speaker took part in international conferences, meetings of experts, testified in US Congress, European Parliament and parliaments of several European countries. Regularly comments on current developments for Belarusian, Ukrainian and international media.

Examples of public appearances

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ag414EJ629w&t=15s>

https://www.google.com/search?q=dictators+and+dissidents+sannikov&rlz=1C5CHFA_enPL912PL914&oq=dictators+and+dissidents+sannikov&gs_l=rp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigAdIBCTIyMDY5ajBqN6gCALACAA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:13b1aa2f,vid:RjoLYM6PQQA,st:0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uz7A9iSwzHk&t=4s>

Topics for public speaking

1. International security and the role of the European part of the former USSR in weakening and strengthening of regional and global security (centered on Belarus).
2. Why authoritarianism and dictatorship returned so fast to the territory of the former Soviet Union. What to expect in the nearest future in the Eastern part of Europe?
3. Freedom fighting under the oppression. The experience of non-violent struggle under dictatorship in Belarus.