



4 August

The International Day of Solidarity with Civil Society of Belarus

**Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere**

(Martin Luther King)

**Join the International Day of Solidarity
with Civil Society of Belarus**

On August 4, 2011 Ales Bialiatski, famous human rights activist from Belarus, chair of Human Rights centre «Viasna», vice president of the International Federation for Human Rights was arrested.

With this action we want to draw attention to the situation in Belarus and to show solidarity with the people who are fighting for freedom facing constant pressure and harassment.

We believe that freedom should have no borders, - the situation in Belarus is a common challenge for civil society throughout Europe and Eurasia. All this space can not be considered a territory of freedom, while there are countries where it is threatened - such as Belarus.

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Svetlana Alexievich

(1948)

Belarusian-Ukrainian journalist and writer, who worked in different genres before finding her own way.

No one can change my mind today that there is something of equal value with human life.

She wrote about artists and science, and even worked in pedagogics. However, the main harvest of her life and creativity were books, where hundreds of people tell, how they survived the nation-wide tragedies. Such is her genre - the literature of document, that has materialized her understanding of word, its correlation with reality. 90% of her books are someone's selected stories that create the whole worldview. "At first glance, the genre I'm working in is just a living evidence, nothing more. In reality, it implies not only the core of the event, that should come through many people and touch the collective mind, it is held up by philosophy..."

In 1983 Svetlana Alexievich wrote her first work "War has Unwomanly Face", where war was shown from other, unusual view - from the point of view of those women, who have come through it. The book wasn't published for two years, for the author spoke about the abyss of human soul rather than heroism, and to write about war in such a key is far from pleasant.

In "The Last Witnesses", "Zinky Boys", "Enchanted with Death", "The Chernobyl Prayer", "Second-hand Time (The end of a red man)" the material is concentrated in the image of time - The Great Patriotic War, Chernobyl, Afghanistan, the collapse of the Soviet Union. Authenticity and closeness to reality are combined with psychology.

All this attracts, captivates and makes think what is a man and where is his limit. "There's little human in human, that's what I've realized in war", says one of the heroes. But through the theme of suffering comes the idea of fragility, value and incomprehensibility of life, and the necessity to watch always deep inside our soul.

Svetlana Alexievich writes "the history of feelings" - what the man was thinking about, what did he feel, believe in and what he decided for himself after coming through the national.