Generalstaatsanwalt

Andrei Shved

Ul. Internatsiyanalnaya 22

220030 Minsk

BELARUS

Datum

**Marfa Rabkova**

Dear Prosecutor General,

I am deeply concerned about the cirminalization of *Marfa Rabkova*, a woman human rights defender and coordinator of the Volunteer Service of the Human Rights Center “Viasna”.

*Marfa Rabkova* was detained on 17 September 2020 and was initially charged with 'training and other preparation of people for participation in mass riots’, 'incitement of racial, national, religious or other social hatred or discord committed by a group’, and 'membership of a criminal organization’. On 6 September 2022, the Minsk City Court sentenced *Marfa Rabkova* to 15 years in prison. She was found guilty of "organizing, participating in and training others to participate in mass riots", "inciting social hostility towards the government" and "involvement in a criminal organization", among other charges. Her co-defendants were also sentenced to lengthy prison terms.

*Marfa Rabkova’s* health is deteriorating rapidly following months of inadequate medical care since she has been in pretrial detention, including being refused treatment for abdominal pain and aching teeth for nearly one year.

Therefore, I urge you to take all the necessary steps to ensure that *Marfa Rabkova* is released immediately and all charges against her are dropped. Pending her release, she has to be urgently provided with adequate medical care in accordance with her wishes.

Yours sincerely,