



August 13, 2020

APSA Statement on Detention of Stas Gorelik

The American Political Science Association expresses concern about the detention of Stas Gorelik, a graduate student in political science at The George Washington University. We understand from reports that Mr. Gorelik was visiting his family and could not return to the United States due to changing US immigration policy related to the pandemic. While there, he was arrested in his home by Belarus authorities on August 12 and accused of “actions that grossly violate public order, or participation in them.” Our understanding is that Mr. Gorelik did not participate in any such activities during his stay in Belarus and his detention is therefore a tragic mistake at best or injustice at worst. Absent any further information to the contrary, we call for the dropping of charges and his immediate release.

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Founded in 1903, the American Political Science Association is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves more than 13,000 members in more than 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe to deepen our understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship throughout the world.