

HAMBURGER STIFTUNG

für politisch Verfolgte

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Press Release

Hamburg, 4 October 2022

Latest guest with the Foundation: Alexander Goncharenko, Human rights activist, politician and epidemiologist from Russia “I cannot and will not be silent!”

Hamburg, 28 September 2022

The Hamburg Foundation for the Politically Persecuted People has accepted the Russian human rights activist Alexander Goncharenko as a foundation guest. The foundation is committed to people all over the world who courageously raise their voices against injustice and enables them to find refuge and peace in Hamburg for a certain period of time.

In April 2022, the district court in Barnaul convicted human rights activist and medical practitioner Alexander Goncharenko of “public acts discrediting the deployment of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.” The proceedings were triggered by the blog entry “I cannot and will not be silent” on the Yabloko party’s website as well as a publicly displayed poster saying “No to war”.

In the meantime, the verdict has been confirmed in second instance. “As I expected,” says Goncharenko, “the county court was deaf to all my arguments.”

Alexander Goncharenko is a human rights activist and member of the Yabloko party since 1998. In the Altai district, he was party chairman of the regional branch and chairman of the non-governmental organization "Protection and Support of Civil Rights and Initiatives". He was involved in numerous commissions for the observance of human rights, including for prisoners. Also, his commitment as a member of the Pardon Commission was repeatedly successful. In 2011, he received the Human Rights Award of the Moscow Helsinki Group for his many years of service.

Alexander Goncharenko studied medicine and worked first as an emergency doctor and later as a pediatrician. Naming only a few of his professional career steps, he was deputy chief physician in a children's hospital until 2007, and from 2008 to 2010 he was a visiting professor of the Department of Hygiene and Fundamentals of Human Ecology at Altai Medical University; most recently, he served as chief physician and head of a medical center. The epidemiologist is the author of numerous scientific papers in the field of infectiology.

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