

The information is aggregated from open online resources and our own practice. In these newsletters, we will shortly update you on everyday human rights violations in numbers and facts.

Summary, Friday-Sunday September 10-12:

Absolutely peaceful protests continue throughout Belarus.

On Saturday, there was a women's peaceful protest, which was attended by about 10,000 women in Minsk. The riot police used brutal force to detain women. Masked marked (OMON) and unmarked security forces pulled single persons out of the crowd and took them to buses and paddy wagons. According to the human rights organisation Viasna, over 60 people – nearly all of them women – were detained.¹

On Sunday the 5th post-election protest took place in Minsk and other cities and towns across Belarus, which was attended by at least 200,000 people.²

Brutal force was used by riot police during Sunday's protest as well, at least 400 people arrested across the country, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.³

Law enforcers used a water cannon against protesters in the Belarusian city of Brest.⁴ At least 15 journalists were detained.⁵ According to the official information "in the temporary detention center on Akrestsin Street - 109 out of 110 beds were occupied on Saturday".⁶

The official Telegram channel of the Press Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus continues to publish materials/news trying to discredit the peaceful protesters. Including claims that the protesters were beaten by the unknown and later blamed OMON.⁷ The Press Secretary also claimed that young people who allegedly tore the national flag off an administrative building were drunk, were convicted before and were hooligans.

News about the Coordination Council⁸

All Presidium members of the Coordination Council, except Nobel Prize Laureate Sviatlana Alexievich, have been arrested or forced into exile. Maxim Znak, Maryja Kaliesnikava, Siarhei Dyleusky, Liliya Ulasova have been illegally arrested. Earlier, Pavel Latushka and Volha

¹ <http://spring96.org/be/news/99493>

² <https://www.rferl.org/a/after-fresh-arrests-belarusian-ministry-blasts-women-protesters-as-unfeminine-/30836183.html>

³ <https://t.me/pressmvd/2082>

⁴ <https://tass.com/world/1200283>

⁵ <https://baj.by/ru/content/zaderzhaniya-zhurnalistov-12-i-13-sentyabrya-v-minske-i-regionah>

⁶ <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/ivs-okrestina-v-minske-zapolnen-na-100-protsentov/30837222.html>

⁷ <https://t.me/pressmvd/2067>

⁸ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordination_Council_\(Belarus\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordination_Council_(Belarus))

Kavalkova had been forced into exile. In solidarity, EU diplomats are staying with Sviatlana Alexievich intermittently.⁹

Maryia Kalesnikova, a member of the board of the opposition Coordination Council (CC), has applied for opening a criminal case against Belarusian officials and officers who exerted psychological pressure and threatened her.¹⁰

Pressure on Lawyers (advocates)

In Belarus gross interference to the right of free and unimpeded exercise of professional legal activities is taking place and the right for lawyers to express their professional opinions, guaranteed by international legal standards, violated.

More than 60 international human rights, lawyers and legal organizations signed an open statement in connection with the detention of Belarusian lawyers Ilya Salei and Maksim Znak who were detained on September 9, 2020 in the framework of a politically motivated criminal case.¹¹

Labor rights and independent strike committees

On September 11, the Minsk Regional Court considered the lawsuit of Belaruskali against the strike committee of the enterprise. Judge upheld Belaruskali's lawsuit and declared the strike illegal.

According to the former chairman of the strike committee Siarhei Shyts, at the beginning of the strike on August 17 and 18, the strike represented the interests of 6,000 to 7,000 Belaruskali employees. The strike committee formulated mainly political demands, including the resignation of Lukashenko and his prosecution for election fraud, suspension of violence against the protesters.

Despite the court decision, the strike committee of Belaruskali plans to continue the protest actions in the form of an indefinite strike. The representatives of the strike committee notes that the strike will continue protests in accordance with the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by Belarus, and article 8 of the Labour Code of Belarus.

⁹<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/09/11/belarus-declaration-by-the-high-r-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-escalation-of-violence-and-intimidation-against-members-of-the-coordination-council/>

¹⁰ <https://belsat.eu/en/news/kalesnikava-wants-to-bring-to-justice-kgb-officers-who-voiced-death-threats/>

¹¹ http://spring96.org/files/misc/zajavlenie_advokaty_belarus_10.09.2020-1.pdf

Economists argue that the strike of Belaruskali, one of the world's largest producers and exporters of mineral potash fertilizers and one of the largest enterprises in Belarus, could result in a 3.5% quarterly cut in global potash production if workers' protest lasts two weeks.

Digital Freedoms

Limitation on digital freedoms continue. On Sunday a total shutdown of Mobile internet in Minsk was observed.¹²

Network equipment manufacturer Sandvine Inc. from the United States confirmed the sale to the Belarusian authorities equipment that allows filtering up to 40% of incoming and outgoing Internet traffic from the country.¹³¹⁴

Cyber Partisans hacktivist group has addressed belarusian authorities to interfere in the work of the Tax Ministry in a case if anyone is detained on Sunday. Now difficulties with work of the web-site of the Tax Ministry is observed.

Good news

We wish to have no more news on human rights violations in Belarus to share with you, but unfortunately for now it's not the case, so we invite you to listen with us to the solidarity [song](#) .

¹²Overview on

digital <https://www.gmfus.org/blog/2020/08/07/digital-media-has-fueled-unprecedented-challenge-regime-belarus>

¹³<https://112.international/society/lukashenko-instructed-to-withdraw-troops-from-western-border-of-belarus-54654.html>

¹⁴<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-11/sandvine-use-to-block-belarus-internet-rankles-staff-lawmakers>