

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 Monday-Friday, September 28- October 2:**

Since the start of the presidential election campaign in Belarus more than **300 criminal cases** against the participants of the presidential campaign, activists of their headquarters, participants of the peaceful protests took place.<sup>1</sup>

The courts began to summon people who were detained on August 9-11, and then released. Almost everyone who was detained on those dates faced cruel, inhuman treatment or even torture. Human rights defenders are aware of **at least 14 cases**. So far, it is known that people have been fined, in addition to the days they spent in Akrestina.<sup>2</sup>

On September 29, the Maladziečna District Court sentenced **Uladzislau Yeustsihneyeu** and **Pavel Piaskou** to 36 and 39 months in prison, respectively, finding them guilty under Part 2 of Art. 363 of the Criminal Code for resisting riot police officers with violence during the detention of peaceful protesters at a rally on June 19.<sup>3</sup> Human Rights defenders recognized them as political prisoners.

The well-known blogger and activist **Eduard Palchis disappeared** and was found in Akrestina. He was sentenced to 30 days of administrative arrests without warning his relatives or a lawyer.<sup>4</sup>

By order of the Ministry of Information, **TUT.by was deprived of its status as a media outlet** until at least December 30. This means that the journalists of TUT.by working in the protest actions will be considered participants and detained for participating.<sup>5</sup> The status of the media gives some advantages, in particular the opportunity to legally be present in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, in areas of armed conflicts or emergencies, at public events, in places of other socially important events and transmit information from there.

The blocking of the websites and other media continues, including nn.by, naviny.by, afn.by, tribuna.by. According to the Ministry of Information, all of these media threaten national security.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://spring96.org/be/news/99638>

<sup>2</sup> <https://svabod1.azureedge.net/a/30864800.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://spring96.org/en/news/99733>

<sup>4</sup> <https://belsat.eu/en/news/blogger-palchys-to-spend-30-days-in-detention-center/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.tut.by/society/702256.html>

## **Detentions and trials**

All these days detentions and arrests continue. 393 people were detained at the protests on September 27.<sup>6</sup> On Monday, court observers found that in one of the courts, a judge was given 10 minutes to consider each case.<sup>7</sup>

The well-known basketball player Elena Levchenko was detained at the airport, before leaving the country for the health-treatment and on the same day she was sentenced to 15 days of arrest for participating in a peaceful action.<sup>8</sup>

Gomel-based priest Vladimir Drobyshevsky, who was sentenced to 10 days of arrest on September 18, was not released. He was again sentenced for taking part in a protest, this time for 15 days.<sup>9</sup>

The journalist Alena Dovnar received 15 days of arrest and a fine of 50 basic units.<sup>10</sup> Mogilev journalist Vladimir Laptsevich was sentenced to 13 days for allegedly participating in a protest.

Local residents gathered in Minsk to drink coffee and support a small coffee shop that offered them a free drink during the protests. The security forces arrived at the scene and detained three people. One was released, two were sent to Akrestsina and given 7 days.

## **Academic liberties**

Students from ten universities held a so-called "sit-in protest" in the capital of Belarus, Minsk, on September 30. They were sitting on the front stairs to the college buildings, demanding to release the students detained earlier.

The most crowded protest was in front of the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR), where hundreds of students were sitting on the steps, chanting "let them go". Earlier student from BSUIR, Siarhei Mazura, was sentenced to 23 days of arrest for participating in the rally and "disobeying" the orders of the police.<sup>11</sup>

## **Children's rights**

In Gomel, a married couple were taken to a temporary detention facility, and their two minor children were sent to an orphanage. According to Natalia Snezhkova (wife), a criminal case

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<sup>6</sup> <http://spring96.org/be/news/99707>

<sup>7</sup> <https://t.me/viasna96/2604>

<sup>8</sup> <https://sport.tut.by/news/handball/702364.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://belarusfeed.com/priest-arrested-for-anti-violence-picket/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://baj.by/be/content/zhurnalistku-alenu-dounar-aryshtavali-na-15-sutak>

<sup>11</sup> <https://news.tut.by/society/702153.html>

was initiated against the couple under part 2 of Article 363 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus. Before the couple was sentenced to 14 days under Article 23.34 of the Administrative Code of the Republic of Belarus for participating in an unauthorized action.<sup>12</sup>

A 16-year-old teenager from Mogilev has been in jail since August 11. He is accused of allegedly throwing a Molotov cocktail at a policeman during a protest. His parents say “there is no evidence of it in his case”. The teenager says that he was beaten in a pre-trial detention center, and he even was in the hospital. Parents are being denied to visit their son.<sup>13</sup>

On the evening of September 26, three students, 18 and 19 years old, were detained in Minsk. The guys were suspected of drawing an offensive inscription at the entrance of the house of the commander of OMON Dmitry Balaba. Later it became known that a criminal case was opened against one of the students, a 19-year-old resident of Minsk. He is accused of insulting a government official. Now he is in a temporary detention center.<sup>14</sup>

### **Other news**

Construction of the Brest Battery Plant continued. The order that suspended the construction was no longer valid. Earlier, Lukashenko promised that the fate of the plant, against which the residents of Brest have been protesting since 2018, will be decided by a local referendum. But it doesn't seem to take place. As follows from the response that the activists received from the local authorities, “the topic of the referendum was not further developed by the initiative group”.<sup>15</sup>

### **Good news**

Photos of Nina Baginskaya appeared in Italian Vogue. “The mother of Belarusian revolution” - signed photos.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <https://gomel.today/rus/news/gomel-18392/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://svobod1.azureedge.net/a/30866854.html>

<sup>14</sup> <https://news.tut.by/society/702391.html>

<sup>15</sup> <https://svobod1.azureedge.net/a/30862564.html>

<sup>16</sup> <https://lady.tut.by/news/inspiration/702322.html>