

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 Tuesday-Tuesday, September 8-10:

The human rights situation continues to collapse. Legal mechanisms do not work on practice. In the first days after the elections, we observed the excessive use of force, arrests and detentions of thousands of people, now the number of detainees decreased, but brutal and politically motivated arrests continue. During September 8-10 at least 100 people, including students and women, were detained with the use of force.¹

Trials on the detained during peaceful protests continue in Minsk and other Belarusian cities, 54 cases were heard on September 10, 26 people received fines (totaling \$ 8,300) and 10 people - administrative arrests from 5 to 15 days in prison.

Pressure on opponents of the authorities continues. **Mariya Kolesnikova**, a member of the presidium of the Coordination Council, is under arrest in a detention centre in Minsk. She was arrested in the context of the ongoing investigation relating to 'appeals to the actions directed to damnification of homeland security of the Republic of Belarus'. **Ilya Saley**, the lawyer of Mariya Kolesnikova and Babaryko's campaign, is arrested as a suspect in the ongoing investigation relating to the same crime as Marya Kolesnikova. **Maksim Znak**, the lawyer, a member of the presidium of the Coordination Council, advocate of Viktor Babaryko detained

According to a statement published by the State Investigative Committee in their Telegram channel, "remand in custody has been chosen and approved by the prosecutor as a measure of restraint for suspects Maria Kalesnikova and Maksim Znak. Ilya Salei has also been arrested as a suspect in the same crime. Further investigation is being carried out to establish all the facts of the case".²

Human rights organizations have recognized Maria Kalesnikava, Maksim Znak, and Illia Salei as political prisoners and demand their immediate release.³

Journalists, violence & harassment

Authorities continued to harass and detain local and foreign journalists routinely. Security forces continually hampered efforts of independent journalists to cover demonstrations and protests in Minsk and across the country.

¹ <http://spring96.org/en/news/99445>

² <https://t.me/skgovby/3029>

³ <https://spring96.org/be/news/99456>

Moreover, the Investigative Committee has refused to conduct an investigation and initiate criminal proceedings on the arrests of dozens of journalists on 27 August, rejecting the statement of the Republican Association of Journalists. The information presented in the appeal of the Belarusian Association of Journalists has been turned down due to, in the IC's opinion on "its abstract nature".

Academic liberties

Since September, 1 the state authorities have been taking actions in universities against students and lecturers who have spoken out in favour of an end to violence and new elections under fair and free conditions.⁴ Masked men, some of them without national insignia and uniforms, have entered university buildings to arbitrarily beat up students and university staff. The state puts pressure on the university management to prevent freedom of expression at the universities by threatening sanctions.

But students keep protesting: students of Belarusian technical University, Belarusian Economics University and the BSU Institute of Business came to class wearing white and red T-shirts. Belarusian State University students lined up along the hallways and chanted "One for all and all for one". Students of Grodno State University and Minsk State Linguistic University performed the song "Tri Charapakhi" ("Three turtles").⁵ Students of the Faculty of Law of the Belarusian State University took part in a rally to support the detained Maksim Znak and Ilya Salei, former graduates of the Law Faculty of the Belarusian State University.⁶

It is worth noting that for harmless songs and other peaceful protests, students face detention and intimidation from rectors. In this regard, lecturers of some Universities show solidarity with students, as well as the international scientific community.^{7 8 9}

Labor Rights and independent strike committees

Employees at many state enterprises have gone on strike in Belarus to support demonstrations against the results of an August 9 presidential election. The government severely restricted independent unions. Management and local authorities blocked worker attempts to organize strikes on many occasions by declaring them illegal. Union members who participated in unauthorized public demonstrations are subjected to arrest and detention.

⁴ <https://www.foxnews.com/world/belarusian-student-protesters-targeted-masked-men>

⁵ <https://t.me/studentyBY/4052>

⁶ https://t.me/kyky_org/4416

⁷ Open letter from legal international community

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZO9zc2yjxs8gMW_sqSQQJuuOV5V8mo0PE-6TvO0HTHo/edit?fbclid=IwAR1EoPUfdBOMt3MkhBSkRXtFxudDr4sjQTfddyMaN7kXD6CO28etdphPOxc

⁸ Joint declaration by representatives of the academic community on the situation at universities and other academic institutions in Belarus <https://www.dgo-online.org/violence-at-universities-in-belarus/>

⁹ <https://news.tut.by/society/699817.html>

Recently, against employees of state enterprises a number of administrative cases have been initiated.

On September, 10 a Belarusian miner, Yury Korzun, in the city of Salihorsk, 130 kilometers south of Minsk, chained himself for several hours to a piece of equipment in a mine more than 300 meters below the surface while demanding the resignation of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.¹⁰

Yury Korzun said in a letter on September 10 that the president was "illegally" holding his position and that Lukashenka should stop threatening striking workers and miners, release jailed members of the strike committee of the Belaruskali factory, stop abductions of ordinary people by unknown individuals and stop attacks against peaceful demonstrators across the country.¹¹

The Director-General of the International Labour Organization, Guy Ryder, has called Lukashenko, to prevent human rights violations and "ensure full respect for workers' rights and freedoms" during the wave of protests that have swept the country in recent weeks.

In his letter, Ryder urged Lukashenko to release and drop charges against six trade unionists who have been detained by the authorities after participating in peaceful protests and industrial action. He as well reminded that it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure a climate free from violence, threats or pressure against peacefully protesting workers and that any such allegations should be rapidly and independently investigated.¹²

Also workers from [Ukraine](#) , [Georgia](#), [Kyrgyz Republic](#), [Poland](#) expressed their support and solidarity with the people's struggle for justice and human rights in Belarus. The Interregional Trade Union "Workers Association" (ITUWA), an affiliate of IndustriALL in Russia, has made a [statement](#) supporting Belarusian unions in the struggle for fundamental worker's rights to decent work.

Good News

The Seimas (Lithuanian Parliament) has recognized Svetlana Tikhanouskaya as the only elected leader of Belarus.

¹⁰ <https://www.svaboda.org/a/30830451.html>

¹¹ https://m.vk.com/wall220140174_1183?fbclid=IwAR38-cRIYI3D7_MjzM59u7aayrZGsTi5PzVqQmQL-qmk5ZpiEaYSQ-JxNro

¹² <http://spring96.org/en/news/99462>