

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.

This letter is dedicated to health workers as one of the vulnerable groups.

Summary Tuesday-Monday, 27 October -2 November:

Peaceful protests continue for 85 days. On October 31, a joint march of women and people with disabilities was held in Minsk. **38 people** were detained, 23 of them in Hrodna.¹

On November 1, a protest march was held in Minsk. Stun grenades and rubber bullets were again used against the protesters, the police shot in the air.² According to the Ministry of internal affairs, about **300 people** were detained.³ The Investigative Committee reported that **231 detainees** have been declared suspects in a criminal case of mass riots.⁴ The authorities claimed the protest was violent and constituted “breach of public order”, a criminally punishable offense in Belarus, as it allegedly disrupted the work of public transport and resulted in “clear disobedience to the demands of the authorities.” Media reports and videos of the protest, however, proved that demonstration was peaceful.⁵

On November 2, a joint march of pensioners and health workers took place in Minsk.⁶

Legislative amendments

Members of the House of Representatives are working on amendments to the Code of Administrative Offenses. The arrest under Article 23.34 can be increased from 15 to 30 days, and the amount of the fine increased to 100 basic unit for the first time and 200 basic for the second violation. The fine can be increased from 50 to 100 basic units for “disobeying a lawful order or the requirement of an official in the exercise of his official powers”.

A new article is also planned. It will punish “illegal use of flags, pennants, emblems, production, distribution of posters, emblems and symbols” with a fine of up to 20 basic units. It is expected that the new version of the Code of Administrative Offenses will enter into force on January 1, 2021. The new Code will toughen liability for participation in unauthorized rallies.⁷

¹ <http://spring96.org/be/news/100197>

² <https://reform.by/176518-guvd-na-akcii-v-minske-milicija-streljala-v-vozduh>

³ <https://web.telegram.org/#/im?p=@pressmvd>

⁴ <https://t.me/skgovby>

⁵ <http://spring96.org/en/news/100214>

⁶ <https://reform.by/176734-tysjachi-chelovek-vyshli-na-marsh-pensionerov-v-minske-onlajn>

⁷ <https://belsat.eu/en/news/administrative-code-amended-to-include-new-punishments-and-huge-fines/>

Meanwhile, a special project to investigate episodes of psychological and physical violence, torture, ill-treatment and the very fact of being prosecuted under Article 23.34 has been [louched](#).

Healthworkers and Human Rights

Despite the difficult epidemiological situation, numerous repressions affected healthcare workers: rectors of medical universities of the Republic of Belarus, director of the Republican Scientific and Practical Center "Cardiology", teachers of the Belarusian State Medical University were dismissed for expressing solidarity with victims of human rights violations. Many doctors, nurses, medical students were detained, tried, sentenced to administrative arrests, and lost their jobs.

The doctors, who take part in solidarity rallies, are massively detained by the police with disproportionate use of force. For example, Hrodna doctors have recorded a video message demanding to recognize the presidential elections as rigged and to hold new ones.⁸ More than 3,805 medical workers signed an [open letter](#) for new elections and against violence. It is important to note that the doctors do not stop working, and organize rallies in their free time.

On October 11, riot police detained [13 doctors](#) during peaceful protests. On October 22, the lease agreement with Children's Hospice⁹ in Hrodna was unilaterally terminated after its director was detained for participation in peaceful protests. On October 27, [7 doctors](#) of Republic scientific-practical centre "Cardiology" were detained, some surgeries were postponed due to detentions. In Mahiley, the doctor-radiologist was severely beaten and arrested for 26 days. In Homel, the doctor-tuberculosis specialist was arrested for 15 days for participating in a solidarity rally. On October 30, around [10 health workers](#) were arrested across the country for peaceful rallies. On November, 2 in Slutsk, the head of the trauma department of the Slutsk central hospital, Yury Akaiomau, and the surgeon, Yury Mikhailouski, were arrested, but released pending trial. They went to the local mayor's office in white coats with a white-red-white flag.¹⁰

This situation is especially a concern, as the number of COVID cases is rising, and there is a lack of doctors and medical professionals.¹¹

Other news

⁸ <https://news.tut.by/society/705094.html>

⁹ Now the organization helps about 7 dozen families with seriously ill children who have cancer, genetic, or pathological diseases.

¹⁰ <https://euroradio.fm/ru/v-slucke-na-ploshchad-vyhodili-vrachi-s-flagom-ih-budut-sudit>

¹¹ <https://belsat.eu/news/spachatku-my-ne-paspyavali-ratavats-ahvyarau-koronavirusu-tsyaper-gvaltu-sil-avikou-medyki-pra-toe-chamu-vyhodzyats-na-pratesty/>

From November 1, Belarus closes land borders for foreign citizens to enter. Air traffic is still working. The official reason: the pandemic of coronavirus.¹² Also Belarusian students who study in other countries can not get to Belarus, the reasons have not been explained.¹³

¹² <https://www.voiceofbelarus.com/live-feed-31-oct/>

¹³ <https://www.voiceofbelarus.com/live-feed-31-oct/>