

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

Summary: Saturday 1 May 2021 to Friday 7 May 2021

So far in 2021, fewer peaceful protests have been recorded, but the number of detainees has not significantly decreased since last year. In January, according to the human rights community, 873 people were detained, in February it was 511 people, in March it was 1,139 people, and in April it was 304 people.

Belarusians continue to be arrested, charged, and tried on politically motivated grounds. As of 7 May, 370 people in Belarus are considered political prisoners.¹

Some of the recent developments include:

- The case of the political prisoner Mikalai Dziadok was transferred to the General Prosecutor's Office of Belarus. He is charged with performing unlawful actions with explosives, violating public order, and calling for actions violating the national security of Belarus;²
- Four people from Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya's campaign team were sentenced to between 6 and 6.5 years in medium and high security prisons for allegedly organising public riots in Gomel;³ and
- A Minsk resident was fined an equivalent of approximately USD\$900 for wearing red-white-red socks.⁴

Human rights violations of professional communities continue

- During the first three months of 2021, there were 291 cases of human and cultural rights violations, says a [report](#) by PEN Belarus entitled 'Monitoring of Violations of Human Rights in the Sphere of Culture'. The number is nearly equivalent to half of the cases documented in 2020.
- Sports clubs receive fines and disqualifications for expressing solidarity, and sports events are held without spectators. According to the Belarusian Sport Solidarity Foundation, at least 61 cases of athletes' dismissal, pressure, and detention from 13 sports are known to date. More than 2,000 sportsmen and women and branch workers signed [an open letter](#) with demands to the authorities to recognise the 2020 elections as null and void and to stop the violence.
- Medical workers continue to be fired. Dr Maxim Ocheretniy was fired from his job at Minsk Children's Clinical Hospital. The doctor believes that the administration of the

¹ <https://prisoners.spring96.org/en#list>

² <https://news.tut.by/economics/729366.html?tg>

³ <https://news.tut.by/society/728971.html?tg>

⁴ <https://news.tut.by/society/728882.html?tg>

hospital decided to fire him because he supported the team of Viktor Babaryka in the 2020 presidential election.⁵ Another doctor, Alexander Telego, was detained in Grodno. There is no information about the charges against him, but his colleagues connect the arrest with his active civil position.⁶

Other news

More than 80 representatives of Belarusian ex-police, army, and law enforcement officers were deprived of their ranks.⁷

⁵ <https://health.tut.by/news/doctors/728839.html?tg>

⁶ <https://news.tut.by/society/729268.html?tg>

⁷ <https://news.tut.by/economics/729265.html?tg>