

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.

Saturday 2 April 2022 to Friday 8 April 2022

Human Constanta expresses its [solidarity](#) with the people of Ukraine. We urge the international community to prioritize the voices and stories of Ukrainians, highlight violations of human rights and international law, call for accountability for the actions of the aggressor, and [support the most vulnerable groups fleeing the war without discrimination](#).

Belarusian KGB behind espionage and disinformation regarding the war in Ukraine

Meta reveals the Belarusian State Security Committee's (KGB) [cyber espionage and spread of disinformation](#). According to the company, coordinated inauthentic behavior, attributable to the Belarusian KGB, was identified on Meta's platforms. During Russian invasion of Ukraine, disinformation on Ukraine's capitulation and evacuation of its leaders was spread in English and Polish. The same authors were behind messages on the Polish authorities' mistreatment of migrants at the border during the [2021–2022 humanitarian crisis](#), stirred by Belarusian authorities.

Belarusian involvement in Russia–Ukraine armed conflict and persecution for anti-war speeches

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, [at least 1,500 people have been detained](#) for expressing anti-war opinions. Some of the reasons for arrests and detentions include carrying yellow and blue balloons, wearing yellow and blue clothes, and putting flowers in front of the Ukrainian embassy. In some cases of persecution, anti-extremism laws are used to label undesired speech and to punish independent opinions.

One group facing particularly harsh persecution is the '[rail guerillas](#)', who disrupt the railway network to slow down and prevent the movement of Russian military equipment into Ukraine. On 21 March 2022, the Committee for State Security declared the Telegram community 'Association of railroaders of Belarus' as an "extremist formation", meaning that chat members could be prosecuted under Article 361-1 of the Criminal Code for participation in an extremist formation. At least 40 railroad workers have been detained.

On 6 April 2022, [three Bobruisk residents Evgeniy Minkevich, Dmitriy Klimov, and Vladimir Abramtsev](#), suspected of railroad sabotage, were detained. Their arrest was brutal and violent – police officers shot the 'suspects' in the knees.

Civil society activist and member of the 'For Freedom' movement [Liudmila Romanovich](#) was arrested for "insulting the president" after she sent a letter condemning the war in Ukraine and the use of Belarusian territory by the Russian aggressor.

Mother of seven [Alena Yakovishina](#) sent back the Mother award that she was given by Alexander Lukashenko in 2019. She attached a supporting statement, criticizing the act of allowing Belarusian territory to be used by Russian forces to attack civilians in Ukraine.

At the same time, [Belarusian doctors](#), alongside their Ukrainian colleagues, continue to save people injured during the war.

Political prisoner and journalist Katsyaryna Andreyeva to be tried twice – now, for state treason

Belsat journalist Katsyaryna Andreyeva and camerawoman Darya Chultsova were detained on 15 November 2020, following the brutal dispersal of a protest in the ‘Square of Changes’ – a courtyard where [Raman Bandarenka](#) was beaten to death. On 18 February 2021, they were sentenced to two years in a penal colony for “organizing riots” and blocking public transport. They were to be released on 5 September 2022.

However, Belarusian authorities presented [another charge](#) against Andreyeva. She is now accused of state treason and may face from 7 to 15 years of imprisonment.

Political prisoner and human rights defender Marfa Rabkova needs urgent medical help

Since her detention in September 2020, human rights defender [Marfa Rabkova](#) has been experiencing health problems. She fainted at least twice in June and July 2021. In August and December 2021, she got COVID-19, and also had symptoms of the disease in early 2022. In addition, Rabkova suffers from constant abdominal pain and inflamed lymph nodes on her neck. Her blood tests from the fall of 2021 showed poor results: low hemoglobin and signs of an inflammatory process. Also, her teeth continue to decay and crumble. Despite her deteriorating health condition, she has not been allowed to undergo a medical examination for an extended period of time.

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1102](#). The number continues to grow daily.