

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 14 May 2022 to Friday 20 May 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](#).

Human Constanta has published a piece on why the [actions of the de facto Belarusian authorities can be categorized as war crimes](#).

Persecution for anti-war speech

On 19 May 2022, the head of the Belarusian Independent Labor Union, [Maxim Poznyakov](#), was sentenced to 15 days of administrative arrest for a Facebook post that contained the flag of Ukraine and the signature “For Independence.”

Repression against independent journalists continues

On 18 May, the State Security Committee (KGB) detained the director of the newspaper *Belorusy i Rynok* (Belarusians and the Market), [Konstantin Zolotykh](#). According to his wife, he is charged with article 130 of the Criminal Code, “inciting social hatred,” which is used by the security forces to suppress freedom of speech.

Lukashenko signs law expanding the possibilities of applying the death penalty

On 18 May 2022, Alexander Lukashenko [signed the law](#) “On Amending the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus”, which establishes that the death penalty can be imposed not only for the direct commission of an act of terrorism but also for the preparation or attempt to commit it. Human rights activists argue that these changes to the legislation were adopted to suppress attempts to sabotage the railways, which some Belarusians do in order to stop the movement of Russian equipment. More details [via the link](#).

Persecution for financial support of Ukraine

On 18 May 2022, the Investigative Committee of Belarus initiated a criminal case against [Andrei Strizhak](#), head of the fund for helping the repressed BYSSOL, under the article on “financing and material support of the armed conflict and military operations on the territory of a neighboring state”. After the start of Russian aggression, this fund was reoriented to raise funds for support for Ukraine.

“Extremism” case initiated for spreading information about the movement of Russian troops

On 16 May 2022, the security forces [detained a mathematics teacher](#) who sent SMS messages about the movement of Russian military equipment to the telephone number of the independent TV channel Belsat. Pro-government channels report that a criminal case has been opened against him under Article 361-4, “Assistance to extremist activity”, under which he could face up to six years in prison.

Searches of volunteers of presidential candidates

On 14 May, it became known that there were mass searches of [the former volunteers of the initiative group of the 2020 ex-presidential candidate](#), Viktor Babariko. Human rights activists were informed about searches at the homes of Dmitry Olshanikov, Tatyana Sterzhneva, Sergei Chig, Gleb Braim, Aleksey Buterev (Vitebsk), as well as other people across the country. The basis for the searches is the leaking of security forces' personal data to opposition channels.

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1202](#). The number continues to grow daily.