

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

Saturday 5 October 2024 to Friday 18 October 2024

The human rights crisis in Belarus continues to deepen. The analyzed period was marked by new sentences for “malicious disobedience” of prison administration, taking pictures of military equipment, and new prison sentences, including *in absentia* ones.

Persecution for disobeying prison administration

The tendency of imposing additional punishment onto political prisoners already serving their terms continues. The logic of state persecution is to blame such prisoners for grossly violating the rules of correctional institutions.

Political prisoner and anarchist [Siarhei Ramanau](#), sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment for allegedly committing an act of terrorism and arms trafficking in the infamous and highly politicized “Alinevich” case and subjected to [torture](#), was sentenced to [additional 2 years of imprisonment](#) for “malicious disobedience” of the prison administration under Article 411 of the Criminal Code. It is the second time his sentence is prolonged on this basis, previously 11 months were added to the time of his incarceration by respective judicial decision.

Another political prisoner and activist [Palina Sharenda-Panasiuk](#), currently serving her 4-year prison sentence for allegedly insulting president and government officials and using violence against a police officer, was sentenced to an [additional year in prison](#) for “malicious disobedience” on 14 October 2024. It is the [third time](#) the article on “malicious disobedience” was used against her.

[Yury Ziankovich](#), a citizen of Belarus and the US, lawyer, and political prisoner, initially sentenced to 11 years for allegedly conspiring to seize state power and harm national security back in 2022, was sentenced to [additional 2 years of imprisonment](#) on “malicious disobedience” grounds. Previously, another six months were added to his sentence on an additional account of “insulting a state official.”

Sentence delivered in Russian war plane case

On 4 October 2024, 12 people (including 11 Belarusian citizens and 1 Ukrainian citizen), accused of sabotage at the Machulishchy military airfield in February 2023 and charged with multiple offenses, including terrorism, treason, and espionage, were sentenced to prison terms of [15 to 25 years](#). Some of the sentences were passed *in absentia*.

The Machulishchy incident occurred in February 2023, when a Russian war plane, stationed in Belarusian city of Machulishchy was blown up – an act which was later [claimed](#) by BYPOL (organization of Belarusian former law enforcement officers) to have been a partisan act, carried out together with security forces of Ukraine.

Detentions for filming military equipment

On 4 October 2024, Kalinkovich resident was detained for [filming a Russian military drone](#) Shahed that entered Belarusian airspace on 3 October 2024 and fell on Kuibysheva street in Kalinkovich. The detained woman was accused of engaging with “extremist” resources for filming and sending the video to “destructive channels” thus “creating panic” among the local population. On the same day, Loev resident was detained for [taking pictures of places of military equipment dislocation and military personnel](#).

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1288](#). As of 18 October 2024, our colleague [Nasta Lojka](#) has been in custody for more than 2 years ([751 days](#)).