

“EXTREMIST” UNIVERSITY AND TEN THOUSAND “EXTREMIST MATERIALS”

**REVIEW OF THE FIGHT AGAINST “EXTREMISM” IN
BELARUS FOR APRIL-JUNE 2026**

"Extremist" university and ten thousand "extremist materials"

This review reflects the main trends in state policy on combating "extremism" and "terrorism" in Belarus and its impact on the human rights situation from April to June 2026. We analyze the publications of state media, pro-government Telegram channels, independent media, and human rights organizations, as well as the various lists and registries maintained by state bodies that relate to "extremism."

The statistics are compiled almost entirely on the basis of reports from open sources. The practice of applying "anti-extremist" legislation is broader than the cases documented in this review. Repressions under the marker of "combating extremism" are ubiquitous in Belarus — state bodies do not publicly report on most cases, and human rights defenders learn of many instances of persecution only after a person is added to an "extremist" or "terrorist" list. Moreover, the authorities' de facto interpretation of "anti-extremist" legislation is so arbitrary that it is often difficult to tell whether the authorities consider a given offense a manifestation of "extremism" or not.

The authorities continued to increasingly restrict the sources of information about state persecution. In particular, the following factors contributed to the impossibility of obtaining reliable data on cases of persecution on "anti-extremist" grounds:

- *the restriction of access to the database of court decisions and the schedule of court hearings on the website of the Supreme Court;*
- *the restriction of access to state bodies' resources from abroad;*
- *the concealment of data from the official annual judicial statistics regarding "extremist" crimes;*

- *the ongoing persecution of human rights organizations and the people cooperating with them (the recognition of resources as "extremist materials" and/or "extremist formations," the detention and sentencing of volunteers);*
- *the decreased activity of pro-government sources that publish videos of detainees.*

Even under conditions of total information restriction, it can be concluded that Belarus is not experiencing a gradual decline in the level of repression. The pardons that took place during the analyzed period did not change the overall picture: new political persecutions continue, none of those pardoned were rehabilitated, and some of them have already become defendants in new criminal cases.

The maximum recorded punishment for "extremist activity" was 14 years' imprisonment (Dmitry Korsakov, see the section Article 356 of the Criminal Code, "Treason to the state"). The most severe punishment handed down in absentia was 19 years' imprisonment (the sentence given to Maxim Shabutsky, see the section Article 357 of the Criminal Code, "Conspiracy or other actions committed with the aim of seizing state power"). Along with the primary punishment of imprisonment, courts continue to impose large fines — for instance, political scientist Dmitry Bolkunets was given a fine of 5,000 basic units (225,000 rubles, ≈\$66,000).

Security forces continue to carry out brutal detentions and raids targeting participants of the 2020 protests, despite the expiration of the five-year statute of limitations for prosecution under the "protest" Article 342 of the Criminal Code (Criminal Code). New brutal detentions were also recorded for comments criticizing the security forces made several years ago — some of the detentions were subsequently accompanied by the publication of "confession videos" filmed under pressure from the security forces. The period was marked by mass searches and interrogations of the relatives of candidates in the elections to the Coordination Council, as well as of participants in the celebrations of Freedom Day. Such repressions against activists who have left the country are increasingly accompanied not only by classic "extremist" charges, but also by criminal cases under Article 356 of the Criminal Code on "treason to the state." Article 361 of the Criminal Code on "calls to harm national security" continues to be used to hand down sentences of actual imprisonment against elderly people. At the same time, the reverse was recorded for the first time: two people convicted under part 3 of Article 361 of the Criminal Code were released from liability due to the expiration of the statute of limitations — under the previous (2019) version of the Criminal Code, this offense was classified as a less serious crime with a five-year statute of limitations, whereas now it is a serious crime with a ten-year statute of limitations.

During the analyzed period, the expansion of repressive legislation in the sphere of education continued: a new resolution of the Ministry of Education strips gifted young people of benefits and scholarships if they have "extremist" violations, and a register of tutors and teachers under development is intended to close off access to work with children for people with convictions under "extremist" articles. For the first time in the history of observation, an entire university was recognized as an "extremist organization" — the European Humanities University: paying for tuition there now qualifies as "financing extremist activity" under Article 361-2 of the Criminal Code, and students are being coerced into withdrawing under the threat of criminal prosecution. Repressions continue to spread into the cultural sphere as well: cultural projects and initiatives are increasingly recognized as "extremist formations," which is accompanied by searches and detentions of the people involved in them.

The "Hajun case" continues to be the main instrument of mass repression — hundreds of people are being punished for having sent information about the movements of Russian military equipment to independent monitoring projects in the past. During the analyzed period, a practice was recorded for the first time whereby detainees in this case are offered to have their prosecution dropped in exchange for "voluntary" donations to state institutions. Large-scale in absentia persecutions of current and former members of the Kalinowski Regiment continue, and a newly detained fighter of the unit also became known. Charges of "assistance to extremist activity" are increasingly being applied against former political prisoners who gave interviews to independent media about the conditions of their detention after their release.

During the analyzed period, the list of "extremist formations" for the first time began to be filled en masse with informal online communities where relatives of prisoners simply exchanged information about the conditions of detention and the rules of the institutions; prison administrations meanwhile coerce convicts into demanding that their loved ones leave such chats. For the first time, a deceased person was included in the list as a member of an "extremist formation" — Nikita Krivtsov, who died under unexplained circumstances back in August 2020, that is, five years before the structure itself was created, is listed as a member of the "Belarusian National Coalition."

The Republican list of "extremist materials" reached the mark of 10,000 banned resources. In the analyzed quarter it was filled with the personal accounts of activists who had already died, as well as with human rights reports and analytical studies that were many years old. For the first time in the entire history of observation, a page on the Reddit platform was included in the list, while state bodies are placing maximum emphasis on recognizing accounts on Threads, TikTok, and Facebook as "extremist materials." The "lists of extremists" and "terrorists" continue to be filled with people convicted in political cases, while those among them who have been pardoned are not removed.

The updated composition of the Republican Commission for the Assessment of Symbols, Attributes, and Information Products became known; its conclusions serve as the basis for adding to both the "list of extremist materials" and the "list of banned books": it still has no independent experts, and more than half of its members are representatives of the security structures. Educational institutions continue to hold propaganda seminars on "identifying extremism" among minors, where extremely absurd criteria such as badges on backpacks or "improper" nicknames in chats are named as signs of a "young offender."

Legislative changes

During the analyzed period, the expansion of repressive legislation in Belarus continued, and the legislative changes affected, among other areas, the sphere of education. The consequences of criminal prosecution under political articles are increasingly spreading to citizens' educational rights and professional opportunities.

On 15 April 2026, Resolution No. 77 of the Ministry of Education [came into force](#), by which it amended the procedure for compiling the databank of gifted and talented youth, which provides for benefits upon admission to universities, financial payments, and Alexander Lukashenko scholarships. Among the new grounds for exclusion from the list, three points deserve particular attention:

- the commission of a crime "of an extremist orientation," or a serious or especially serious crime (point 14);
- the commission of an administrative offense related to a "violation of the procedure for holding mass events," the propaganda of Nazi symbols, or the distribution of materials "of an extremist orientation" (point 15);
- the commission of "other actions harming state or public interests or aimed at discrediting and showing disrespect toward the activities of the funds" (point 16).

The last point is worded in an extremely broad manner and contains no specific criteria, which opens up the possibility for arbitrary application. Thus, participation in protests or any activity qualified as "extremist" or as causing "harm to state interests" now entails not only criminal or administrative consequences, but also the deprivation of educational benefits and state scholarships.

On 22 May 2026, the Ministry of Education [submitted for public discussion](#) a draft resolution of the Council of Ministers on the creation of a register of individuals engaged in independent professional activity teaching children. According to the document, such activity will be permitted only after inclusion in the corresponding register. The explanatory note directly states that the innovation will make it possible to restrict access to work with children for persons against whom a guilty verdict has been handed down for crimes "of an extremist orientation," regardless of whether the conviction has been expunged or lifted.

Another round of pardons

The analyzed period was marked by yet another instance of pardons issued by decree of Alexander Lukashenko, which he uses as an instrument of diplomatic bargaining.

On 28 April 2026, a "five for five" exchange took place at the Belarusian-Polish border. During it, journalist and Polish-minority activist Andrzej Poczobut [was released](#). Poczobut spent 1,860 days behind bars — he was detained in 2021 and sentenced to eight years for "incitement to hostility" and "discrediting Belarus" in connection with his journalistic activity. Notably, he himself [did not ask for a pardon](#) and did not admit guilt, yet he was included in the exchange process by decree of Alexander Lukashenko [following an appeal from the journalist's mother](#). The exchange was the result of lengthy negotiations between the State Security Committee (KGB) of Belarus and Polish intelligence, mediated by the special services of seven states and with the active participation of the administration of Donald Trump. Along with him, two citizens of Moldova and two more citizens of Poland — [Tomasz Beroza](#) and the Carmelite monk [Grzegorz Paweł](#), convicted of "espionage" — were released from Belarusian prisons. In the opposite direction, five people were handed over, whom the KGB [characterized](#) as people who had "carried out especially important tasks in the interests of ensuring the national security and defense capability" of Belarus.

None of the released political prisoners are being rehabilitated, while at the same time a number of pardoned people who are abroad have already managed to become defendants in new "extremist cases" — for example, [Pavel Seviarynets](#) or [Vladislav Labkovich](#). Some pardoned people are also already [listed as wanted](#).

Political prisoners who were released under a pardon but remained in Belarus [continue to be subjected to pressure](#) from the security structures: they face mandatory [regular interrogations about their private lives](#), strict monitoring of their compliance with the established preventive restrictions,

as well as administrative liability (arrests and fines) for violating them. At the same time, the authorities confiscate and sell the property of some pardoned prisoners — such cases are known regarding [the apartment of Yevgeny Kislov](#) and [the car of Vitaly Tsynkel](#).

Criminal cases

On 25 June 2026, the chairman of the Investigative Committee (Investigative Committee) Konstantin Bychek [stated that the events of 2020](#) had become "a serious test for the entire state apparatus," but that investigators "fulfilled their duty with honor." According to him, "a legal assessment was given to all participants of the mass riots, their organizers, persons who resisted law enforcement," and those who "harbored plans to forcibly change the constitutional order." Bychek particularly emphasized that "persons who fled abroad have not escaped criminal prosecution" — in part thanks to the institution of special proceedings introduced at the initiative of the Investigative Committee. It was separately noted that attempts to "conceal income and property subject to confiscation" are being actively suppressed. As of 1 July 2026, 177 people have been included in the "List of persons in respect of whom special proceedings have been initiated and who are summoned to the criminal prosecution body."

During the analyzed period, a new practice of pressure on those convicted in "extremist" cases was recorded. People who appeal their sentence before being sent to "chemistry" (restriction of liberty) are being [coerced into signing documents](#) according to which, in the event of a repeat violation of the Criminal Code, they will face expulsion from the country.

The authorities continue to sell off the property of people convicted under "extremist" articles of the Criminal Code, both in person and in absentia. For example, on 24 June 2026 [it became known](#) that the authorities continue to put up for auction icons seized from the priest Henryk Okolotovich, sentenced to 11 years under the article on "treason to the state" and pardoned in November 2025. Among the new lots are icons from the 19th to the early 20th century from the Gomel-Chernigov region, recognized as monuments of folk artistic culture and objects of cultural heritage, as well as an icon from the second half of the 18th century. The priest's car and land plot had previously gone under the hammer as well. Repressions are known against the property of people abroad — BYPOL leader [Alexander Azarov](#), journalist and human rights defender [Vladimir Khilmanovich](#), economist [Pavel Daneiko](#), activist [Jerzy Grigencyz](#), and publisher [Igor Logvinov](#). [There are also reports](#) of the car of Arkady Koichurenko, who is serving a sentence of 5 years' imprisonment, being put up for auction.

Article 127 of the Criminal Code. "Genocide"

In Belarus, the practice continues of initiating and hearing criminal cases over the facts of the genocide of the Belarusian people during the years of the Second World War. Investigative bodies qualify actions committed by the Nazi occupiers and their accomplices as crimes not subject to a statute of limitations. In a number of cases, persons who had already died by the time the proceedings were initiated are officially recognized as suspects in such cases. Despite their death, the investigation continues to gather evidence, conduct examinations, interrogate witnesses, and prepare materials for transfer to court. The stated aim of these proceedings is to restore historical

justice, establish the truth, and formalize a legal assessment of events that took place more than 80 years ago.

Beyond the goals of historical memory, the genocide investigations in Belarus are used as an element of state ideology, in which the events of the Second World War become a frame for the modern confrontation with the West. Official rhetoric directly connects the Nazi crimes of the past with the policies of European states today: thus, [Alexander Lukashenko stated](#) that Belarus is "opposed by the descendants of the defeated supporters of the Third Reich," claiming that in Europe "SS division banners are being waved with the tacit consent of the West." In parallel, Minister of Defense [Viktor Khrenin claimed](#) that Western countries had "resorted to tried-and-tested Hitlerite practices," having "raised a Nazi monster in Ukraine." Along the same lines, former Prosecutor General Andrei [Shved stated that requests for legal assistance](#) in the case are being ignored by states that "today preach and support Nazi ideology." Such a combination of a historical theme with current foreign-policy rhetoric turns criminal cases about genocide into an element of informational mobilization, in which the modern West is constructed as a direct heir of Nazism, and Belarus as the continuer of the fight against it.

On 9 October 2025, former Prosecutor General Andrei Shved [reported that the investigation](#) of the criminal case on the genocide of the Belarusian people was continuing and that "new facts are being established every day." According to his data, the investigation had already interrogated more than 20,000 people, of whom 8,000 were former concentration camp prisoners; over 500 examinations of mass killing sites had been conducted, thousands of archival documents and criminal cases had been studied, no fewer than 100 new suspected sites of the extermination of people were being checked, and 137 requests for legal assistance had been sent to 33 states. On 11 December 2025, Shved stated that in 2026 the Prosecutor General's Office [plans to send to court](#) no fewer than 7–10 criminal cases against Nazi criminals.

During the analyzed period, one verdict was handed down in connection with this investigation. On 24 April 2026, the Supreme Court of Belarus [found the Lithuanian collaborator](#) Antanas Gecevičius guilty of the genocide of the Belarusian people, handing down a guilty verdict without imposing a punishment due to the defendant's death in 2001. According to the investigation, Gecevičius commanded a platoon of the first company of the 12th Lithuanian security battalion, which in October 1941 carried out a "bloody raid" through the towns and villages of Belarus, during which more than 40,000 citizens were killed. Gecevičius not only led mass executions but also personally shot people, including the elderly, women, and children. The court proved his involvement in the deaths of no fewer than 6,000 people, including 31 young children. Among the proven episodes are the mass killing of no fewer than 5,000 people in the Slutsk district in October 1941, a punitive operation in the town of Koidanovo (now Dzerzhinsk), as well as personally directing the public execution by hanging of 12 members of the Minsk underground (photographs of this execution were subsequently used as evidence of Nazi crimes at the Nuremberg trials). After the war, Gecevičius hid in Scotland under a changed surname and was identified by American investigators; however, according to state media, the British authorities dragged out the investigation. In the end, the Edinburgh court did issue a ruling on his arrest, but by that time it was no longer possible to hold him accountable due to his state of health. This is the seventh guilty verdict in the history of sovereign Belarus in genocide cases. Publications by state media separately note that Lithuania and Canada refused to provide legal assistance in this case.

The development of the case of Hans Siegling, commander of a Ukrainian police company and of the 57th security police battalion, found guilty of genocide by a ruling of the Supreme Court on 11 March 2026, deserves particular attention. Thus, on 7 May 2026, the chairman of the Supreme Court Andrei Shved [sent to the competent bodies](#) of Germany a copy of the sentence that had entered into legal force, with a request that the German authorities give a legal assessment of his deeds and review the 1976 decision of the Munich prosecutor's office, which had terminated the proceedings in the Siegling case "due to the absence of sufficient evidence of guilt." As reported in state media materials, after the war Siegling lived peacefully and engaged in business activity in his native Bavaria, never having borne any punishment during his lifetime. The Supreme Court indicated that genocide is an international crime without a statute of limitations and that the Federal Republic of Germany, as a party to the UN Convention on the Prevention of Genocide, is obligated to exercise universal jurisdiction over such deeds. A representative of the Supreme Court stated that the body, "proceeding from the principles of the inevitability of punishment and the rule of law, with the aim of restoring historical truth and justice, is raising with the German side the question of the need to return to the proceedings in the case of Hans Siegling and review the decisions previously taken regarding the facts of the crimes he committed."

Article 130 of the Criminal Code. "Incitement of racial, national, religious or other social enmity or hostility"

This article is used to persecute people for critical comments in messengers and on social networks directed at representatives of the authorities and the security structures in general as a group. Such messages are interpreted by the security forces as "incitement of other social hostility." The maximum sanction under this article is 12 years' imprisonment. In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 38 people convicted under this article.

On 11 June 2026, the Investigative Committee [announced](#) the intensification of the monitoring of social networks and of rapid response to "prohibited content," placing particular emphasis on Threads and TikTok. The department listed the categories of content that would entail a "legal assessment": "dissemination of knowingly false information," "incitement of social hostility," "threats of a terrorist nature," and "rehabilitation of Nazism."

Human rights defenders continue to record new sentences under this article.

- In the spring of 2026, the Grodno Regional Court [sentenced journalist Ales Lubenchuk](#) to 4 years in a reinforced-regime penal colony. This was already the journalist's second criminal prosecution: earlier, in May 2022, he was sentenced to three years in a penal colony for "participation in an extremist formation" under part 3 of Article 361-1 of the Criminal Code and fully served his term, being released in January 2025. In the new case, Lubenchuk was charged with "incitement to hostility" for negative comments directed at the authorities and with "assistance to extremist activity" in the "Belaruski Hajun case" under Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code. He was detained on 2 September 2025 when reporting for a check-in at a police station and spent seven months in the Grodno pre-trial detention center. Since the crimes in the new case were committed in the same period as those in the previous one, the court credited the three years of the previously served sentence — thus, one year remained. Taking into account the time in the pre-trial detention center at the rate of a day and a half for each day in penal colony No. 9, Lubenchuk spent only two weeks there (part in

quarantine, part in a punishment cell) and was released in May 2026. On 22 June, the KGB added him to the list of persons "involved in terrorist activity."

- On 19 May 2026, [it became known](#) that the Minsk City Court had handed down a sentence against 59-year-old nurse Lyudmila Prokopenya from Minsk — she was sentenced to imprisonment.

Charges under Article 130 of the Criminal Code are most often brought together with "defamation" articles of the Criminal Code. Thus, on 28 May 2026 it became known that activist Valentina Naumova from Grodno, detained on 5 September 2025, [would stand trial under as many as 10 articles](#) of the Criminal Code at once. In addition to "incitement to hostility," she was charged under practically all possible "defamation" charges: "slander," "violation of the secrecy of correspondence," "assistance to extremist activity," "slander against Lukashenko," "insulting Lukashenko," "insulting a representative of the authorities," "desecration of state symbols," and "insulting a judge" under Articles 188, 203-1, 361-4, 367, 368, 369, 370, and 391 of the Criminal Code.

Active in absentia persecution using this article continues.

- On 7 May 2026, the Grodno Regional Court, in special (in absentia) proceedings, [sentenced 28-year-old Alexander Zubrik](#) to 3.5 years' imprisonment in a general-regime penal colony. Zubrik was found guilty of "incitement of other social hostility," "active participation in actions grossly violating public order," "insulting a representative of the authorities," "insulting the president," and "desecration of state symbols" under Articles 130, 342, 368, 369, 370 of the Criminal Code. Zubrik is a former employee of the "Lakokraska" plant in Lida; he was detained on 15 February 2022 for comments in the "Lida for Life CHAT" chat. He was released on bail before trial and has been wanted abroad since 14 July 2022.
- On 12 May 2026, the Gomel Regional Court, in special (in absentia) proceedings, [sentenced 31-year-old Stanislav Prigodich](#) to 5 years' imprisonment in a general-regime penal colony with a fine of 100 basic units (4,500 rubles, ≈\$1,400). Prigodich was found guilty of "incitement of other social hostility," "participation in an extremist formation," "insulting the president," "insulting a representative of the authorities," and "discrediting Belarus" under Articles 130, 361-1, 368, 369, 369-1 of the Criminal Code.
- On 18 May 2026, the Investigative Committee [initiated special \(in absentia\) proceedings against the leader](#) of the cult band "Lyapis Trubetskoy" Sergei Mikhalok, who apparently resides in Ukraine. He was charged with "incitement to hostility" and "insulting Lukashenko" under Articles 130 and 368 of the Criminal Code. He has repeatedly given interviews criticizing Alexander Lukashenko, and some of his songs were recognized as "extremist materials."

Cases at the intersection of real offenses and political persecution

On 15 May 2026, the Prosecutor General's Office [reported that the Supreme Court](#) had upheld the sentence of the Minsk City Court against four members of the sect "Russian Orthodox Church — Tsarist Empire." Three female leaders — Anna Stryukova, Galina Frolova, and Olga Baikovskaya — were sentenced to five years and three months' imprisonment, and the activist Voshchenko to five years. Stryukova and Baikovskaya were additionally given a fine of 21,000 rubles (≈\$6,500).

The sect's leaders were found guilty of "leading an extremist formation," and the sect's activist of "membership in it" under Article 361-1 of the Criminal Code. All four were also convicted of "deliberate actions aimed at inciting national and religious hostility" under part 3 of Article 130 of the Criminal Code. According to the prosecution, the sect's members encouraged people to take an oath to "the tsar and the fatherland," called on them to renounce documents, medicine, and education, and also distributed materials "inciting hostility" against Jews (adherents of Judaism), representatives of other religions, including canonical Orthodoxy. [As a reminder](#), detentions in the case took place on [22 August 2024](#), the sect was recognized as an "extremist formation" that same month, and on 21 July 2025 the Investigative Committee [reported the completion of the investigation](#).

Even where there are signs of real violations of the law, the applied articles of the Criminal Code are [among the most broadly interpreted](#) and are systematically used for politically motivated persecution in Belarus. A conviction under "extremism" articles entails substantial additional restrictions: separate registration in places of imprisonment, inclusion in the [lists of "terrorists"](#) and ["extremists"](#) with the attendant consequences for banking services, employment, and movement. It is telling that the Criminal Code contains Article 193, which provides for liability specifically for organizing or leading a religious organization that infringes upon the rights and freedoms of citizens, with a maximum punishment of 3 years' imprisonment, which — given the circumstances of the case — should have been applied in this case. The fact that far more severe "extremist" articles of the Criminal Code were applied instead of this article itself points to the political nature of the persecution. The deprivation of liberty in this case in itself constitutes a disproportionate restriction of freedom of conscience and religion: this measure should be applied as a last resort in cases of serious crimes that have caused real harm, which was not established in this case. Stryukova, Frolova, Baikovskaya, and Voshchenko were [recognized as political prisoners](#).

On 14 May 2026, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Ministry of Internal Affairs) [reported the detention of a 21-year-old](#) resident of the Vitebsk region by employees of the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption (GUBOPiK) with the forceful support of the special unit "Vityaz." According to the department, the detainee "held nationalist and protest views," posted comments "about causing harm to veterans of the Great Patriotic War, as he believed that there was no heroism in their actions," and also posted photographs with a portrait of Hitler "with the aim of glorifying his personality." In particular, the security forces discovered the following comment: "The meme is funny, but there's no need to make heroes out of them, they fought for GULAGs and executions, and if you count it up, over his entire rule Stalin destroyed more people than Adik and that's obvious." A criminal case was initiated under the article on "deliberate actions aimed at inciting social enmity or hostility." Notably, the described actions formally fall under Article 130-1 of the Criminal Code on the "rehabilitation of Nazism." Why the investigation preferred the qualification under the article on "incitement to hostility" remains unclear. At the same time, the mention of "protest views" as a circumstance of the case, as well as the persecution for individual statements that diverge from the official historical policy, may indicate the presence of a political motive in the case.

Article 130-1 of the Criminal Code. "Rehabilitation of Nazism"

The security forces continued to use this article both to combat genuine manifestations of Nazism and to persecute people for alternative opinions about historical events. The maximum sanction under this article is 12 years' imprisonment. In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 3 people convicted under this article.

On 5 June 2026, the Ministry of Internal Affairs [reported the detention of a 26-year-old](#) resident of the Mogilev region. The operation was carried out by employees of the 10th directorate of GUBOPiK with the forceful support of the special unit "Rys." According to the department, since May 2022 the detainee had administered channels and groups in messengers and social networks where he posted videos, photographs, and audio recordings aimed at the "justification of the ideology of Nazism" and the "glorification of Nazi criminals." In addition, he distributed "songs of an extremist nature" and derived income from this: according to the investigation, he earned more than three thousand dollars.

Human rights defenders continue to record cases of persecution under Article 130-1 of the Criminal Code that are likely politically motivated as well. Thus, [a sentence under this article is known](#) to have been handed down against a 21-year-old resident of Soligorsk, Zakhar Papushoy. He was additionally charged with "incitement to hostility" and "participation in an extremist formation" — the presence in the charges of articles of the Criminal Code that are almost always used exclusively for political persecution attests to the political nature of the persecution under Article 130-1 of the Criminal Code as well.

Article 130-2 of the Criminal Code. "Denial of the genocide of the Belarusian people"

Article 130-2 of the Criminal Code is used to persecute people for opinions about the history of Belarus in 1941–1951 that contradict the official position of the authorities. The maximum sanction under this article is 10 years' imprisonment. For more details about the law that is used to hold this person accountable, read [the Human Constanta review](#).

On 11 May 2026, the Investigative Committee [reported the initiation of a criminal case](#) under Article 130-2 of the Criminal Code against a 56-year-old Minsk resident who, in May 2025, had posted comments on the social network Threads denying the existence of Hitler's "Ost" plan. According to the defendant himself, he tried to find the original text of the document online but, not having found it, decided that the plan "had been invented by the Communist Party of the USSR." The Investigative Committee noted that "the information available in open access about the existence of a second version of the plan in the U.S. National Archives, as well as a translation of the remarks and additions to it in the National Archives of the Republic of Belarus, was allegedly unknown to the Minsk resident." At the same time, the investigation [specifically emphasized](#) that the defendant's relatives had themselves lived through the occupation of Minsk and that he knew "about the invaders, about the inhumane treatment of peaceful people and the mass executions," yet claimed that "the atrocities against the civilian population, including children and women, were nothing more than the Nazis' reaction to the partisan movement and resistance." The man was identified by GUBOPiK employees "in close cooperation with investigators"; he is in custody.

Article 188 of the Criminal Code. "Slander"

This article is applied to persecute people for the dissemination of what the authorities consider knowingly false information defaming the honor and dignity of individual representatives of the authorities. At the same time, "slandorous" statements directed at Lukashenko, as well as information concerning the Belarusian regime as a whole, are qualified under other articles of the Criminal Code — Articles 367 and 369-1 of the Criminal Code. In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 3 people convicted under this article.

On 18 June 2026, the Investigative Committee reported the initiation of a criminal case under Article 188 of the Criminal Code in connection with the dissemination of information about the alleged detention and placement in a pre-trial detention center of the former chairman of the Gomel city executive committee Vladimir Privalov. The information was [initially published](#) by the Telegram channel "Realnaya Belarus," after which it was verified by [the Gomel outlet "Flagshtok"](#) with reference to a source connected to the executive authorities. According to "Flagshtok," Privalov had indeed become a defendant in a criminal case — he is accused of fraud involving the resale of apartments, in connection with which he was held in the Gomel pre-trial detention center, but may subsequently have been released under a written undertaking not to leave. The Investigative Committee called the information about the detention false and stated that no criminal prosecution of Privalov had taken place. At the moment the case was initiated, no specific accused had been identified — it was reported that the investigation was carrying out actions to identify the persons involved in the dissemination of this information.

Article 289 of the Criminal Code. "Act of terrorism"

This article continues to be used to persecute people for acts of direct resistance to the authorities, all of which are interpreted by the security forces as an "act of terrorism." The maximum sanction under this article is 15 years' imprisonment. If the crime is committed by an organized group, the article provides for a punishment of up to 25 years' imprisonment, life imprisonment, or the death penalty. The death penalty may be applied as a punishment even merely for preparation to commit an "act of terrorism." In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 7 people convicted under this article.

During the analyzed period, active operational cooperation between the Belarusian and Russian special services continued within the framework of the fight against "terrorism," the main source of which both sides consider to be Ukraine — this is precisely how various acts of sabotage and other forceful methods of countering Russian aggression are interpreted. On 26 May 2026, the director of the Federal Security Service of Russia (FSB) Alexander Bortnikov, at a meeting of the Council of Heads of Security Bodies and Special Services of the CIS countries in Irkutsk, [stated](#) that, jointly with the KGB of Belarus, "an attempt organized by Kyiv to import more than 500 explosive devices into the Russian Federation for the purpose of carrying out terrorist attacks" had been thwarted at the beginning of the year. According to him, the Ukrainian special services use the territories of states neighboring Russia to infiltrate saboteurs and "means of terror."

In April–June, the practice of handing down severe sentences resumed in the cases of the so-called "rail partisans" — people accused of attempting to disable railway infrastructure in order to hinder the transfer of Russian troops and equipment across the territory of Belarus into Ukraine.

On 6 June 2026, ["Gomel Viasna" reported](#) the sentence of a 65-year-old resident of the village of Laguny in the Dobrush district, Sergei Stasenko. He was found guilty under five articles of the Criminal Code: attempted "act of terrorism," "illegal actions with respect to firearms and explosives," "deliberately rendering a vehicle or means of communication unusable," "treason to the state," and "participation in an extremist formation" under part 2 of Article 289, part 4 of Article 295, part 4 of Article 309, part 1 of Article 356, and part 3 of Article 361-1 of the Criminal Code. The maximum possible punishment under the charges brought is up to 20 years' imprisonment; the exact term was being established at the time of publication. Stasenko lived in a village near which the railway running from Gomel in the direction of Ukraine passes, and near which the military airfield at Zyabrovka — restored by Russian troops and used during the full-scale invasion of Ukraine — is located. According to human rights defenders, the totality of the charges brought indicates that Stasenko was likely trying to hinder movement along the railway as part of the activity of an organization that opposed Belarus's participation in Russian aggression against Ukraine.

The security forces are also actively conducting counter-terrorism exercises in cities with the use of military and special equipment. For example, on 16–18 June 2026, [exercises were held](#) in the Mogilev region to test the readiness of state bodies to interact and respond to acts of terrorism. Units of the Ministry for Emergency Situations (MChS), the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Investigative Committee, and the KGB took part in the events.

Article 290-1 of the Criminal Code. "Financing of terrorist activities"

Law enforcement bodies may interpret any material donations to pro-democratic and independent civic initiatives recognized as "terrorist" on the territory of Belarus (for example, "Nexta," "Cyberpartisans," "BYPOL") as "financing of terrorist activities." The sanction under this article provides for imprisonment of 8 to 15 years. With rare exceptions, all the donations for which people are persecuted were made long before the corresponding organizations were recognized as "terrorist."

On 9 June 2026, the chairman of the State Control Committee Vasily Gerasimov [reported](#) that in 2025, 100 crimes related to the "financing of terrorism" and "extremism" had been prevented. According to him, in committing the crimes, "specialized software, technical means, internet resources, and blockchain technology" were used.

On 8 June 2026, the Investigative Committee [initiated special \(in absentia\) proceedings against Ekaterina Mankevich, vocalist of the metal bands Dymna Lotva and Hangover in Minsk](#). She was charged under several articles of the Criminal Code, including "propaganda of terrorism," "financing of terrorist activities," "assistance to extremist activity," "violence or the threat of violence against Lukashenko," and "insulting Lukashenko" under Articles 289-1, 290-1, 361-4, 366-1, 368 of the Criminal Code.

Article 290-5 of the Criminal Code. "Organization of the activities of a terrorist organization and participation in the activities of such an organization"

This article is used to punish activity within opposition structures that the authorities consider "terrorist." This article is often applied together with the similar Article 290-4 of the Criminal Code "Creation of an organization to carry out terrorist activities or participation in it." Apparently, Article 290-4 of the Criminal Code is formally applied to cases where a new organization is created for "terrorist activity," while Article 290-5 of the Criminal Code concerns actions within an already recognized "terrorist" organization included in the official list. At the same time, the difference in the practical application of the law by the Belarusian security forces remains unclear. The maximum sanction under Article 290-4 of the Criminal Code is 12 years' imprisonment, and under Article 290-5 of the Criminal Code, 15 years' imprisonment.

On 27 May 2026, the Investigative Committee opened special (in absentia) proceedings against another five people connected to the Kalinowski Regiment, the Belarusian unit within the Armed Forces of Ukraine opposing Russian aggression: [Nikolai Boiko](#), [Yuri Makitov](#), former political prisoner [Natalya Nikitina](#), [Kristina Stankevich](#), and [Mikhail Chuprinsky](#). All of them were charged under several articles of the Criminal Code, including "participation in a criminal organization," "participation in a terrorist organization," "conspiracy to seize power," "creation of an extremist formation," "participation in an armed conflict on the territory of a foreign state," "assistance to extremist activity," and "undergoing training for participation in extremist activity" under Articles 285, 290-5, 357, 361-1, 361-3, 361-4, 361-5 of the Criminal Code. Such a set of charges is, as a rule, grounds for believing that the case is connected with the defendants' participation in the activities of Belarusian volunteer units fighting in Ukraine against Russian aggression.

A similar set of charges, characteristic of cases connected with participation in armed pro-Ukrainian formations, [was also brought](#) against a 62-year-old Brest resident, Alexander Rudchik, who had lived outside Belarus since 2022 but, for unknown reasons, returned to his homeland, where he was detained. The Brest Regional Court [found him guilty](#) of participation in a "criminal" and "terrorist" organization, as well as of participation in an armed conflict on the territory of a foreign state under Articles 285, 290-3, 290-4, and 361-3 of the Criminal Code.

Article 293 of the Criminal Code. "Mass riots"

This article continues to be used to punish participants of the protest actions in 2020; however, unlike the more "mass" Article 342 of the Criminal Code, Article 293 of the Criminal Code is used predominantly to punish participants of the actions of 9–11 August 2020, which were characterized by isolated episodes of resistance to law enforcement. Usually, the actions of protesters are equated with participation in riots and the use of improvised objects and pyrotechnics to resist police officers. In practice, people are convicted for, for example, moving garbage bins to block roads without causing any damage, throwing harmless objects toward the security forces (for example, a phone case or a plastic bottle), or simply being present in a crowd at protest actions during which the security forces recorded instances of resistance. This article may also be applied to punish calls to such actions. The maximum sanction under this article is 15 years' imprisonment. In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 2 people convicted under this article.

During the analyzed period, it became known that the Brest Regional Court had [sentenced](#) a driver from Pinsk, Sergei Pakhlovsky, to imprisonment for "preparation to organize mass riots" — apparently for comments containing calls for protests or discussion of them.

Article 342 of the Criminal Code. "Organization and preparation of actions grossly violating public order, or active participation in them"

In connection with the falsified presidential elections of 2020, the Belarusian government was faced with large-scale peaceful protests, to which it responded with the disproportionate and unlawful use of force and mass detentions. More than 35,000 people were subjected to [arbitrary arrests and administrative detentions](#) for "violation of the procedure for organizing or holding mass events" on the basis of Article 23.34 of the Code of Administrative Offenses (now Article 24.23 of the Administrative Code).

Since the autumn of 2020, the mass criminalization of peaceful assemblies has been recorded: whereas in the summer of 2020 the charges brought against peaceful demonstrators concerned mainly Article 23.34 of the Administrative Code (now 24.23 of the Administrative Code), then, as the protests became more frequent and varied, from November 2020 state bodies began to massively initiate criminal cases on a systematic basis under Article 342 of the Criminal Code, after which this article became the most popular instrument for the criminal prosecution of politically active citizens who disagree with the political course of the regime of Alexander Lukashenko. Despite the fact that in recent years no street protest actions have been recorded in Belarus, the security forces continue to punish people for participating in protests in 2020. Moreover, people are often punished again for the same actions: despite the fact that a person has already served a sentence under Article 23.34 in 2020, they may still be held accountable within the framework of criminal charges. The maximum sanction under this article is 4 years' imprisonment.

Practically all those charged under Article 342 of the Criminal Code are brought virtually identical charges; in particular, the security forces consider that all participants of the protests, "acting in a group of persons, chanted slogans, displayed cloths of the white-red-white color, grossly violating public order and the tranquility of citizens, deliberately obstructed the movement of vehicles and the normal functioning of enterprises and organizations, thereby deliberately taking active part in group actions grossly violating public order, coupled with the clear disobedience of the lawful demands of representatives of the authorities, which entailed the disruption of the work of transport, enterprises, and organizations." In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 10 people convicted under this article.

In April–June 2026, as in the previous analyzed period, no cases of release from punishment due to the expiration of the five-year statute of limitations under Article 342 were recorded — whereas previously, next to the names of some people in the "list of extremists," the phrase "released from liability due to the expiration of the periods for prosecution" had appeared. At the same time, the "list of extremists" continues to be filled with people convicted under Article 342 of the Criminal Code with the imposition of a punishment — on 10 April 2026, Dmitry Voronovich was included in the list with the notation "conviction not expunged."

Pressure on participants of the 2020 marches continues even after the expiration of the statute of limitations for criminal liability under Article 342 of the Criminal Code; the security forces continue their brutal raids targeting participants of the 2020 marches. On 18 May 2026, "Nasha Niva" [reported](#) that armed GUBOPiK employees had burst into several apartments in Mogilev early in the morning: those who opened the door were laid face down on the floor, their arms twisted, and their belongings scattered. After this, the detainees were taken to the local station for a "preventive talk," where they were intimidated with liability for any protest activity and made to sign an undertaking acknowledging a warning about criminal liability for participation in protest activity. After the talk, the detainees were released. The security forces mentioned that they were doing this so that people "would not relax."

Despite the decrease in the level of persecution for participation in protests, the security structures continue to systematically prepare to suppress them. Officially, such trainings of the police and internal troops [are called exercises](#) "for the suppression of group violations of public order or mass riots, as well as extremist actions." Starting in February 2026, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been conducting exercises on dispersing protests in all regions of the country: [the first trainings took place in Minsk in February](#), in March [in Brest](#), in April [in Vitebsk](#), in May [in Mogilev](#), in June [in Baranovichi](#). At the exercises, the security forces practice detaining "protest coordinators," blocking roads, seizing buildings, and using water cannons, FPV drones, and strike UAVs. Among the scenarios practiced are the detention of journalists and of people with flowers by the roadside, and on 12 June 2026, near Minsk, the security forces [separately trained](#) to detain notional active football fans of "Dinamo" — a category of people that has in fact already practically disappeared due to repression.

Following the April exercises in Vitebsk, the head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Kubrakov publicly gave the local security forces a "failing grade" for the fact that not a single unit was raised on alert, acknowledged the exercises conducted to be "unsatisfactory," and ordered that the exercises be repeated. The repeat exercises [took place in Vitebsk on 23–24 June 2026](#).

Article 356 of the Criminal Code. "Treason to the state"

This article continues to be used to persecute people — most often former civil servants — who, according to the prosecution, may have been connected with opposition organizations. Practically all proceedings under this article are held behind closed doors, which is why human rights defenders are unaware of the substance of the charges in most cases. The maximum sanction under this article is 15 years' imprisonment. If the crime is committed by an official, the article provides for a punishment of up to 25 years' imprisonment, life imprisonment, or the death penalty. In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 8 people convicted under this article.

The article on "treason to the state" continues to be applied against civic activists without the public disclosure of the circumstances of the case. Thus, on 8 May 2026, the Mogilev Regional Court [sentenced civic activist](#) and member of the "Narodnaya Hramada" party Nikolai Vitkovsky from Narovlya to 10 years' imprisonment. He had previously been repeatedly detained under administrative articles; in September 2025 he was detained by KGB officers and placed in a pre-trial prison in Mogilev.

During the analyzed period, a case was recorded in which the persecution spread to an entire family: the parents, apparently, came under investigation solely because they maintained contact with their daughter, who was in Ukraine.

On 10 June 2026, the Minsk City Court [handed down a sentence against the Korsakov family](#) — a total of 37 years' imprisonment for the three of them. Dmitry Korsakov was sentenced to 14 years, Tatyana Korsakova to 12 years, and their daughter Pelageya, in absentia, to 11 years. All three were also obliged to pay a fine of 50,000 rubles (≈\$14,700). Dmitry and Tatyana were found guilty of "treason to the state" and "smuggling of weapons" under Articles 295, 333-1, 356 of the Criminal Code; Pelageya was charged only with "treason to the state." The circumstances of the case were not officially disclosed.

Dmitry and Tatyana worked at a Minsk kindergarten as a teacher and a laborer respectively. Pelageya left for Ukraine in 2021 after participating in the protests, where she engaged in volunteer activity: she took part in clearing rubble after missile strikes and in the evacuation of the injured. The parents were detained in September 2025: according to Pelageya, they were "abducted from their home" immediately after the mother returned from work; a search was carried out and equipment was confiscated. Immediately after the detention, unidentified persons called her and demanded that she come to Belarus in exchange for the release of her parents, while providing her with knowingly false information about the mother's hospitalization. Pelageya herself considers the charges absurd: according to her, the sole basis for the persecution was the fact that she was in Ukraine, engaged in volunteer activity, and maintained contact with her parents, from which the investigation apparently concluded that they were involved in "prohibited activity."

Information continues to appear in public sources about criminal cases under Article 356 of the Criminal Code connected with former civil servants — in some such cases the courts may impose a punishment of the death penalty.

- On 2 May 2026, [it became known](#) that the Minsk City Court had handed down a sentence against a former employee of the Department of Protection of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Minsk, Ivan Voinov. The basis for the sentence was likely a desire to join the Kalinowski Regiment. In addition to "treason to the state," he was also charged with "preparation to participate in a terrorist organization" and "preparation to participate in an armed conflict on the territory of a foreign state" under Articles 290-5 and 361-3 of the Criminal Code.
- On 2 June 2026, [it became known about the detention](#) of a former KGB officer, Igor Sutyрка. Sutyрка left the department in 2014, after which he took up programming and lived in Poland for several years. Later he obtained Polish citizenship. In April 2026 he returned to Belarus, where he was detained and placed in the KGB pre-trial detention center.
- On 12 June, the Grodno Regional Court, in special (in absentia) proceedings, [sentenced a former police officer](#) from Grodno, Mikhail Kutsko, to 15 years in a penal colony with a fine of 500 basic units (22,500 rubles, ≈\$6,600). Kutsko was found guilty of "transferring state secrets of Belarus to a foreign state" and "otherwise rendering assistance to a foreign state in activity aimed at causing harm to national security." Kutsko served as an operative of the department for drug control and countering human trafficking of the criminal police of the Leninsky district police department of Grodno. In July 2020, he recorded an address calling on his former colleagues to "be with the people," after which he was forced to leave Belarus.

On 23 April 2026, the Investigative Committee reported the completion of the investigation of two criminal cases united by a common motive: in both cases the defendants are charged with collecting the personal data of employees of the security structures.

- In the first case, two Minsk entrepreneurs became the accused: the managing partner of the event agency "Tera Group," [Andrei Yaroshevich](#), and his business partner. According to the investigation, in 2023 Yaroshevich "entered into negotiations" with the association BELPOL to collect information about penal colony No. 1 in Novopolotsk, including the personal data of employees and the conditions of detention of prisoners. In addition, both defendants are accused of transferring the profits of their firm to the organizations Terra Group Event and SSL Production, recognized by the KGB as "extremist formations" in November 2025. One of the accused is also charged with the embezzlement of more than 240,000 rubles (≈\$70,000) by paying dividends to himself alone. Notably, it was precisely in the Warsaw branch of Terra Group Event that the former employee of Lukashenko's Administration Anatoly Kotov worked before his mysterious disappearance in Turkey in August 2025; his whereabouts are still unknown. The defendants were charged with "embezzlement on an especially large scale," "treason to the state," and "financing extremist activity" under Articles 210, 356, 361-2 of the Criminal Code.
- In the second case, the accused was a 68-year-old pensioner from the Volozhin district. According to the investigation, in July 2022 he was recruited by the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and, for a reward, collected the personal data and phone numbers of local police officers. In addition, he is charged with posting comments "inciting national hostility toward persons of Russian nationality." He was charged with "incitement to hostility" and "treason to the state" under Articles 130 and 356 of the Criminal Code.

Among the cases of "treason to the state," charges of cooperation with the Ukrainian side occur significantly more often than with any other foreign structures. For example, on 9 May 2026, activist Denis Dashkevich from Rogachev, who has lived in Poland since 2022, [reported that in May](#) the security forces had begun mass interviews of people from the cultural sphere in the Rogachev district, finding out whether they maintained contact with him. According to him, the phones and social networks of some are being checked, contacts photographed, and written undertakings taken with an obligation not to pass information to him. The security forces visit Dashkevich's relatives regularly, once a quarter. The activist himself reported that, according to the information available to him, a new criminal case had been initiated against him under the article on "treason to the state," on charges of transferring information to Ukrainian structures, which he categorically denies.

The activity of the pro-democratic bodies of the Belarusian opposition abroad invariably entails criminal cases inside the country. The main instrument of pressure in such cases, meanwhile, remains the persecution of relatives who have remained inside the country: searches and interrogations are carried out on them.

Thus, on 6 May 2026, the Human Rights Center "Viasna" (HRC "Viasna") [reported a wave of searches](#) of the relatives of candidates in the elections to the Coordination Council of the Belarusian opposition, which took place from 12 to 19 May. Human rights defenders learned of more than ten searches of candidates from several factions running for the first time. The searches were carried out within the framework of a criminal case under the articles on "treason to the state," "conspiracy

to seize power," "calls for sanctions," and "participation in an extremist formation," under Articles 356, 357, 361, 361-1 of the Criminal Code. During the searches, the security forces interrogated the candidates' relatives, and pressure was exerted on some of them in order to force their loved ones to withdraw from their factions on the eve of the vote. Earlier, the KGB had included several of the running associations in the list of "extremist formations," including "Vash Golas," "Nastup," "Khvatit boyatsya," the "United Civic Platform," "Rukh 'Volya,'" and the "Bloc of Belarusian Political Prisoners 'Belarusians of Action.'"

The repressions in connection with the Coordination Council elections affected not only the candidates but also those who could vote for them. During the online voting from 11 to 17 May, pro-government Telegram channels published videos of three men whom the security forces presented as participants in the Coordination Council elections: 34-year-old Minsk resident [Andrei Pyatakov](#), 38-year-old Alexander Medushevsky, and Grodno English teacher Pavel Karlyukov. In the videos, the men recount that they followed a link and voted on the voting website. Their real legal status and the circumstances of their detention remained unknown.

Participation in the celebration of Freedom Day (a Belarusian national holiday marked on 25 March in memory of the proclamation of the Belarusian People's Republic in 1918) also traditionally entails repressions against relatives who have remained in the country. On 21 May 2026, KGB officers [carried out searches](#) of the relatives of activists who had participated in the celebrations in Warsaw, Vilnius, Białystok, and the USA. According to human rights defenders, a total of [more than 30 searches](#) took place. The searches were carried out at the place of registration of the activists and former political prisoners — Anastasia Vasilchuk, Vladislav Labkovich, Artem Basalai, [Pavel Seviarynets](#), [Dmitry Korniyenko](#), [Vasily Pleshkunov](#), [Ivan Kasperovich](#), as well as [a couple of activists from Mozyr came under repression](#). It is also known that in Mogilev the security forces [sealed the apartment](#) of a woman who had left several years earlier, despite the fact that no one has lived in the premises for a long time, and at the home of Artem Basalai's parents they made an inventory of property — a refrigerator and a washing machine. In Smilovichi, during one of the searches, KGB officers [directly asked](#) to pass on to the activist who had left the demand to "keep a lower profile and sit quietly." During the searches, the security forces voice a wide variety of charges against the activists who have left, including "treason to the state," "assistance to extremist activity," and "discrediting the Republic of Belarus" under Articles 356, 361-4, and 369-1 of the Criminal Code. In April 2026, it became known about the [detention of the photographer Alexander Shishko](#), who for unknown reasons had returned to Belarus from Georgia — he is charged with participation in the celebration of Freedom Day in 2024.

Article 357 of the Criminal Code. "Conspiracy or other actions committed with the aim of seizing state power"

This article continued to be used as one of the grounds for the in absentia persecution of the most well-known representatives of civil society and the Belarusian opposition. Practically any systematic independent activist and political activity was equated with an "attempt to seize power by unconstitutional means." The maximum sanction under this article is 15 years' imprisonment. In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 2 people convicted under this article.

During the analyzed period, the following in absentia sentences are known:

- On 20 May 2026, the Grodno Regional Court, in special (in absentia) proceedings, [sentenced former Kalinowski Regiment fighter and blogger Maxim Shabutsky](#) to 19 years in a reinforced-regime penal colony with a fine of 3,500 basic units (157,500 rubles, ≈\$46,000). Shabutsky was found guilty under as many as 18 articles of the Criminal Code, the most serious of which is "conspiracy."
- On 25 May 2026, the Minsk City Court, in special (in absentia) proceedings, [sentenced political scientist and economist Dmitry Bolkunets](#) to 12 years' imprisonment in a reinforced-regime penal colony with a fine of 5,000 basic units (225,000 rubles, ≈\$66,000). Bolkunets was found guilty under 11 articles of the Criminal Code. According to the prosecution, in 2020–2024 he "created and posted no fewer than 28 information publications of an inciting nature," in which he allegedly called "for the seizure of state power and the violent change of the constitutional order, causing harm to the national security of Belarus, and the application of restrictive measures (sanctions) against Belarus, its natural and legal persons."

Article 361 of the Criminal Code. "Calls for restrictive measures (sanctions), other actions aimed at harming the national security of the Republic of Belarus"

The article continues to be used to persecute people for any forms of support for the tightening of sanctions against the Belarusian regime and calls to fight against it, including in the format of comments in messengers and on social networks. The maximum sanction under this article is 12 years' imprisonment. In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 26 people convicted under this article.

During the analyzed period, mass sentences under this article against elderly people became known — 57-year-old Minsk resident [Oksana Volvacheva](#), 59-year-old [Tatyana Staseva](#), 61-year-old [Svetlana Angeleyko](#), 66-year-old [Olga Stroyeva](#), and 72-year-old [Alexander Kotlyanik](#) came under repression. It is also known that [Roman Sharkov](#), sales manager [Vyacheslav Vansalovich](#), and builder from Brest [Yevgeny Pergaev](#) were sentenced to imprisonment. Additionally, people were charged with "incitement to hostility," "assistance to extremist activity," and "defamation" crimes.

The article continued to be used for in absentia persecution.

- On 20 May 2026, the Mogilev Regional Court [sentenced Nikolai Tarasenko](#) to 5 years' imprisonment. In addition to part 3 of Article 361 of the Criminal Code, he was charged under "defamation" articles of the Criminal Code.
- On 25 June 2026, the Investigative Committee [initiated special \(in absentia\) proceedings against 40-year-old Artem Litvinko](#). He was charged under several articles of the Criminal Code, including "incitement of racial, national, religious or other social enmity or hostility," "calls for sanctions," "insulting Lukashenko," and "insulting a representative of the authorities" under Articles 130, 361, 368, and 369 of the Criminal Code.

For the first time in the entire history of observation, two people convicted under part 3 of Article 361 of the Criminal Code were released from criminal liability due to the expiration of the statute of limitations. [Andrei Bakurenko](#) and [Sergei Shpak](#) were convicted for a video address by reserve officers to the Belarusian military, released in October 2020. During this period, the version of the

Criminal Code of 10 November 2019 was in force, under which part 3 of Article 361 of the Criminal Code provided for a punishment of two to five years' imprisonment and was classified as a less serious crime with a five-year statute of limitations. At present, part 3 of Article 361 of the Criminal Code is a serious crime and the statute of limitations under it is already 10 years.

Article 361-1 of the Criminal Code. "Creation of an extremist formation or participation in it"

The article continues to be used to suppress any forms of self-organization of society that are objectionable to the regime. For participation in an "extremist formation," this article provides for a punishment of up to 6 years' imprisonment, and for the creation of an "extremist formation," up to 10 years. In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 26 people convicted under this article.

In April–June, the article was used to persecute people connected with independent cultural initiatives.

- On 17–18 February 2026, the security forces [carried out mass searches](#) and detentions among publishers and book distributors of Belarusian literature. On 3 March, the KGB recognized the "Coalition of Print Publishers" as an "extremist formation." In mid-April 2026, HRC "Viasna" [reported](#) that most of those detained in this case had been released, but that Dmitry Kolas, presumably held in the KGB pre-trial detention center, remained in custody. He was charged with "leading an extremist formation."
- On 23 April 2026, [detentions took place across the country](#) of people connected with cultural projects and initiatives that had been recognized as "extremist formations" by a decision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in April. At least 12 women are known to have been detained in Novopolotsk — searches were carried out at all of their homes, several were immediately taken to the pre-trial detention center, and the rest were interrogated in the city. Eight people were released that same evening; subscriptions to "extremist" information resources were found on one of the detainees, after which she was held in custody for three days and sentenced to an administrative fine. According to human rights defenders, at least two women remained behind bars as of 28 April 2026. Written undertakings not to leave and non-disclosure agreements were taken from all those detained. Similar detentions took place the same day in Borisov, Slonim, Brest, and Zhodino as well.

The article continues to be used to persecute independent journalists and members of their families.

- On 26 June 2026, the Minsk City Court [handed down a sentence against journalist Kirill Poznyak](#) and his daughter Yanina. Kirill was sentenced to 3.5 years' imprisonment with a fine of 550 basic units (24,750 rubles, ≈\$7,600); Yanina's term was not disclosed at the time of publication. Both were charged under part 1 of Article 361-1 ("creation of an extremist formation") and Article 369-1 ("discrediting the Republic of Belarus") for activity within the framework of the YouTube channel "Platform 375," on which Poznyak covered political and economic events in the country and, in 2021–2022, moderated online debates between pro-government and pro-democratic figures. The father and daughter were detained on 3 September 2025 — the same day the KGB recognized the channel as an "extremist formation." Notably, the sole basis for Yanina's persecution was the registration of the

project's account on TikTok. During the investigation, Kirill Poznyak suffered COVID-19 and severe pneumonia with complications to his lungs, spending several days on a ventilator.

- On 19 May 2026, GUBOPiK employees [carried out searches of the parents](#) of two people connected with the Gomel independent outlet "Flagshtok," which had been recognized as an "extremist formation." According to the editorial office, one of the security officers directly stated that such actions would continue for as long as new publications appeared on the resource.

Repressions for administering and participating in independent Telegram chats continue. During the analyzed period, cases of persecution mainly concerned chats in support of prisoners.

- On 6 April 2026, the KGB recognized 22 chats of various penal colonies and pre-trial detention centers (10 Telegram chats, 9 Viber chats, and 3 communities on VKontakte) under the common name "SIZO No. 1 Kolyadichi" as an "extremist formation." "SIZO No. 1 Kolyadichi" is [the largest chat](#) of the relatives of Belarusian prisoners, with about 1,800 members. In the following days, some convicts [began calling their loved ones](#) with the demand to immediately leave these chats, [warning that participation](#) in them entailed criminal liability regardless of the content of the correspondence. Apparently, they were [coerced into making such calls](#) by the administrations of the institutions. The pressure also extended to chats not included in the official list. At the Ivatsevichi penal colony PK-22 "Volchi Nory," the administration en masse coerced convicts into calling home and demanding that their relatives leave the Viber chat "Vmeste proshche," in which several hundred people exchanged information about the rules of detention in the colony. The prisoners themselves were meanwhile threatened with consequences if it turned out that their loved ones continued to be members of the chat.
- On 16 April 2026, a sentence became known against Mikhail Lapunov, the father of political prisoner Nikita Zolotarev. Lapunov was detained in August 2023 and was repeatedly arrested for 15 days under administrative cases. During one such arrest, the KGB recognized the closed Telegram chat "Gomel for Nikita Zolotarev," created by Lapunov in support of his son, as an "extremist formation." On this basis, a criminal case was initiated against Lapunov for "creation of an extremist formation" and "assistance to extremist activity." In August 2024, the Gomel Regional Court sentenced him to 5 years in a reinforced-regime penal colony.

Article 361-2 of the Criminal Code. "Financing extremist activity"

People who have made monetary or other material donations to solidarity funds or opposition organizations recognized as "extremist formations" on the territory of Belarus are persecuted by the security forces under Article 361-2 of the Criminal Code ("financing extremist activity"). This article provides for a punishment of up to 8 years' imprisonment. Criminal prosecution is also carried out against people who donated to funds [long before they were recognized](#) as "extremist."

During the analyzed period, the following sentences became known:

- On 12 May 2026, it became known that the Grodno Regional Court had [sentenced software engineer Pavel Kaberda](#), an employee of the company EPAM who had returned from Poland, to 5 years in a reinforced-regime penal colony and a fine of 300 basic units (13,500

rubles, ≈\$3,970) for monetary transfers via PayPal in 2020–2022 in favor of the funds BY SOL, BY_help, BY POL, and others. Most of the transfers were between 10 and 50 euros, about ten transfers in all. Kaberda himself admitted the fact of the transfers, explaining that he had wanted to help those injured during the protests.

- On 18 May 2026, [it became known](#) that the Grodno Regional Court had sentenced 45-year-old makeup artist Natalya Chubovskaya to 5 years and 5 months in a general-regime penal colony and a fine of 22,500 rubles (≈\$6,620) under eight "extremist" articles, including for "repeated financing of extremism."

In mid-April 2026, the Supreme Court of Belarus recognized the European Humanities University (EHU) as an "extremist organization" and banned its activity on the territory of the country. On 5 May 2026, the prosecutor's office of the Vitebsk region [clarified](#) the list of actions entailing criminal liability: any financial operations in favor of the university, including payment for tuition, qualify as "financing extremist activity" and carry a term of up to five years' imprisonment under Article 361-2 of the Criminal Code; continuing studies or teaching is interpreted as "participation in an extremist formation" under Article 361-1 of the Criminal Code with a punishment of up to six years; finally, even having a subscription to EHU's internet resources or using its symbols is grounds for being held accountable.

Soon after this, [a wave of searches and interrogations](#) of students, graduates, and their relatives began across Belarus. According to HRC "Viasna," by 11 June 2026 human rights defenders [were aware](#) of more than 60 searches. The persecution covers graduates starting from 2019: they are visited and required to provide their university diplomas. Mass searches are reported in the [Brest](#) and [Vitebsk regions](#).

The searches are carried out within the framework of a criminal case for "cooperation with an extremist formation" (apparently under Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code) and for payment for tuition at EHU starting from 2016 (under Article 361-2 of the Criminal Code) — [according to one of the rulings](#) on the initiation of a criminal case, "unidentified persons, no later than 30.04.2016, carried out the provision and collection of monetary funds, securities, and other property for the knowing support of the extremist activity of the extremist organization 'European Humanities University,' recognized as such by a decision of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus of 14.04.2026."

The security forces are [forcing EHU students](#) located in Belarus to withdraw from the educational institution — in some cases the security forces force students to write a withdrawal application, and sometimes they deliberately render residence-permit cards in Lithuania unusable. A separate and especially telling feature of the case has been [the use of relatives as an instrument of pressure](#) on students who are abroad. The security forces directly tell parents: if their children do not withdraw from EHU and do not return to Belarus, their relatives will be detained within the framework of the criminal case. It is known that some relatives of students have already been detained. Students are given up to 10 days to withdraw. At least 100 students of the institution [were forced to withdraw](#) from EHU due to the risks associated with the new "extremist" status.

Article 361-3 of the Criminal Code. "Participation in an armed formation or armed conflict, military actions on the territory of a foreign state, recruitment or preparation of persons for such participation"

The analyzed period was marked by the continuation of repressions against people accused of ties with the Kalinowski Regiment and other Belarusian units within the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU). To punish donations to Belarusian units, part 2 of Article 361-3 of the Criminal Code is applied, which provides for a maximum sanction of up to 10 years' imprisonment. Courts continue to hand down sentences for material donations to the AFU and the Belarusian units within them. Courts usually hand down more severe sentences for material support of Ukraine than for donations to Belarusian solidarity funds. In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 3 people convicted under this article.

On 16 June 2026, the state television channel ONT [released a propaganda segment](#) about the investigation of a criminal case against members of the Kalinowski Regiment. It showed three prisoners — [Vasily Vereymeychik](#), extradited to Belarus by Vietnam and sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment; [Maxim Ralko](#), sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment; and also Andrei Sergeev, whose detention had not previously been known to human rights defenders. According to additional information established by the channel MAYDAY, [he was detained](#) in August 2025 at a border checkpoint in Brest while exiting to Poland, where he worked as a long-haul trucker. In February 2026, the case was transferred to court — he is charged with "participation in combat operations on the territory of a foreign state," as well as involvement in the "Hajun case" under Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code. In this propaganda segment, members of the Regiment were compared with collaborators of the times of the Second World War.

On 2 May 2026, [the circumstances became known](#) of the sentence against a resident of Svetlogorsk, Gleb Panasyuk, sentenced in March 2026 to five years in a penal colony. He was tried under part 2 of Article 361-3 of the Criminal Code for "recruitment, training, other preparation for participation on the territory of a foreign state in an armed formation, as well as the financing or other material support of such activity." According to the man's friends, he was merely subscribed to the Telegram channel of the Kalinowski Regiment and did not engage in any recruitment or training. These circumstances, as well as the imposed term of five years — which courts most often hand down under this article specifically for donations — suggest that the real basis for the persecution was material support of the unit. Panasyuk lived and worked in Poland, and on 8 October 2025 he traveled to Svetlogorsk to visit his parents. In December 2025, a source in the security agencies informed human rights defenders that the man was being held in pre-trial detention center No. 3 in Gomel.

Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code. "Assistance to extremist activity"

This article continued to be used to persecute people for any interaction with independent media and non-profit organizations recognized as "extremist materials" or "extremist formations." The maximum sanction under this article is 7 years' imprisonment. In April–June 2026, the "list of extremists" was filled with 227 people convicted under this article.

Repressions connected with the "Belaruski Hajun" project continue. As a reminder, on 5 February 2025 [it became known that the security structures](#) had gained access to the data of the Telegram accounts of users who had sent messages to the bot of the "Belaruski Hajun" project, which tracked military activity on the territory of Belarus (the project itself was recognized as an "extremist formation" in March 2022). As of mid-June 2026, HRC "Viasna" [reported at least 200 confirmed defendants](#) in this case. All are charged under Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code ("assistance to extremist activity"): according to Human Constanta's information, the pre-trial detention centers in many cities of Belarus are overcrowded with people charged under this article of the Criminal Code.

[As dissidentby notes](#), court decisions not infrequently reproduce the rhetoric of Russian propaganda. Thus, an example of the characteristic wording is a fragment of one of the sentences: "...during a period of time not precisely established, but no later than ** ** 2023, being on the territory of the Republic of Belarus and the city of (a more precise location was not established), having intent for other assistance to extremist activity, including that expressed in disagreement with the Russian Federation's conduct of a special military operation on the territory of the Republic of Ukraine for demilitarization and denazification with the aim of protecting the peaceful population, being a user under the account ... and the Telegram bot 'Dapamozha Hajun.'"

During the analyzed period, a practice was recorded for the first time regarding those detained in the "Hajun" case that had previously been applied to people persecuted for donations. The security forces [offer detainees](#) to have their criminal prosecution dropped in exchange for "voluntary" donations in favor of state institutions. In particular, one Belarusian reported that for a single message to the "Hajun" bot he was offered to transfer several thousand dollars to the "Republican Center for the Organization of Medical Response."

Trials in this case take place practically every day. Most of those detained are punished with "home chemistry" (restriction of liberty served at home).

- On 1 April 2026, the Minsk Regional Court [sentenced Yevgeny Kostyko](#) to 4 years of "home chemistry."
- On 6 April 2026, the Gomel Regional Court [sentenced Maxim Gonchero](#) to 3 years of "home chemistry"; he was additionally charged with "discrediting the Republic of Belarus" under Article 369-1 of the Criminal Code.
- On 8 April 2026, [Vitaly Novikov was sentenced](#) to 1.5 years of "home chemistry."
- On 13 April 2026, it became known that the Gomel Regional Court had [sentenced a former employee of Gomselmash](#) to 2.5 years of "home chemistry."
- On 16 April 2026, the priest of the parish of the Mother of God of Zhirovichi in Ivatsevichi, [Vitaly Bystrov, was sentenced](#) to 2.5 years' imprisonment. Previously, he had been repeatedly detained under the administrative article for "violation of the procedure for organizing mass events."
- On 4 May 2026, the Gomel Regional Court [sentenced Alexander Novikov](#) to 2.5 years of "home chemistry" (restriction of liberty).
- In May 2026, a sentence was handed down against [Veronika Shinkarevich \(Mirontseva\)](#) and her 61-year-old mother, [Lukerya Mirontseva](#) — they were sentenced to 2.5 and 3 years of "home chemistry" respectively. Previously, other members of the Mirontsev family, [Anastasia](#) and [Victoria](#), had already served sentences of imprisonment for participation in the protests.

- On 23 June 2026, [it became known](#) that the Gomel Regional Court had sentenced local resident Olga Marchenko to 3 years of restriction of liberty.

Also among those sentenced to this type of penalty are, for example: mothers of young children from Gomel [Oksana Umrykhina](#), [Tatyana Serenkova](#), and [Yana Ranko](#); father of several children from Kolyadichi [Kirill Loiko](#); university of culture employee from Minsk [Natalya Dedyulya](#); volunteer from Novopolotsk [Inna Kolosova](#); driver from Mozyr [Maxim Vereshchagin](#); designer from Pinsk [Yana Moskaleva](#); Mozyr oil refinery worker [Vladimir Churilo](#); bricklayer from Zhodino [Igor Neyman](#); engineer from Khoyniki [Alexander Povod](#); engineer from Kolodishchi [Natalya Nepochalovich](#); long-haul trucker from Chechersk [Denis Maspanov](#); head nurse from Baranovichi [Olga Kozlovskaya](#); Belarusian State Medical University lecturer from Minsk [Alexei Sosnovsky](#); businessman from Kletsk [Marat Bushenko](#); entrepreneur from Gomel [Viktor Varvanovich](#); businessman from Minsk [Alexander Kondratovich](#); resident of Nosovichi in the Dobrush district [Nadezhda Vitikova](#); 60-year-old insurance agent from Gomel [Svetlana Bazhankova](#); IT specialist from Maryina Gorka [Yana Gurinovich](#); "Khimvolokno" security service specialist from Svetlogorsk [Yegor Boiko](#); sales manager from Baranovichi [Yegor Bulyga](#); accountant from Kalinkovich [Tatyana Lavnikovich](#); project manager from Svetlogorsk [Yuri Medvedik](#); farmer from Volozhin [Dmitry Silin](#); resident of the Tserukha village in the Gomel district [Andrei Sheremetev](#); pawnshop worker from Minsk [Elena Yurkevich](#); entrepreneur from Gomel [Vyacheslav Gorbachev](#); resident of Bobruisk [Anna Krasnevskaya](#), and many others.

Special mention should be made of the “home chemistry” sentence imposed on [75-year-old](#) Minsk pensioner Lilia Grinko, as well as against 21-year-old from Pinsk [Yana Galimskaya](#), 21-year-old cadet of the Aviation Academy [Vadim Kuznetsov](#), and 20-year-old student from Rechitsa [Daniil Brikun](#).

At the same time, several cases are known in which individuals were given custodial sentences or sentenced to “chemistry” — restriction of freedom with placement in an open-type correctional institution. The most commonly imposed custodial sentence was three years’ imprisonment. Previously, such sentences were most often imposed on individuals who had sent not one but several messages to the bot. This was treated as repeated “assistance to extremist activity,” and the person could be charged under both Parts 1 and 2 of Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code, potentially resulting in a harsher sentence. During the period under review, however, the distinction between the charges had virtually no effect on the sentence imposed. Under both Parts 1 and 2 of Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code, courts imposed “home chemistry” — restriction of freedom without placement in an open-type correctional institution — as well as “chemistry” and imprisonment.

The following sentences of this kind are known:

- On 29 April 2026, it became known that in January 2026 the Minsk City Court had [sentenced web designer from Bobruisk Olga Bulanova](#) to three years’ imprisonment.
- On 4 May 2026, it became known that the Grodno Regional Court had [sentenced Molodechno resident Olga Borunova](#) to three years’ imprisonment. She was also charged in connection with critical comments about the authorities.
- On 12 May 2026, the Minsk City Court [sentenced Alexander Vanchenko](#) to three years’ imprisonment.

- On 15 May 2026, [it became known](#) that Andrei Spasov, a former employee of Lukashenko's Security Service, had been sentenced to three years' imprisonment. He had resigned from the service no later than 2020 after, in his words, encountering "things that in no way aligned with his notions of honor and dignity."
- On 26 May 2026, a court in Mogilev [sentenced Sergei Stribulsky](#) to three and a half years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of 550 basic units (24,750 rubles, approximately \$7,200). Stribulsky had previously been repeatedly subjected to politically motivated persecution. In 2017, he was a defendant in the "White Legion case" and spent 99 days in detention before the case was closed due to the absence of elements of a criminal offense. In the autumn of 2021, he was detained again, and his equipment and items described by the authorities as "protest symbols" were seized. In March 2022, he was detained on the eve of Freedom Day and sentenced to 15 days of administrative detention. He also served two additional terms of administrative detention before being detained again in connection with the current criminal case.

Also sentenced to imprisonment or "chemistry" were: long-haul trucker from the settlement of Druzhny in the Pukhovichi district [Nikita Putilo](#); locksmith from Soligorsk [Yevgeny Derunov](#); 66-year-old security guard from Minsk [Natalya Vlasova](#); special-needs teacher from the village of Starina in the Kolodishchi village council [Elena Orshanskaya](#); IT specialist from Gomel [Victoria Potashkina](#); instructor of the "Angel" search unit [Maxim Voitekhovich](#) from Minsk; electromechanic of the Belarusian Railway from Bereza [Alexander Davidovich](#); taxi driver from Gomel [Ilya Karpov](#); worker at a drilling tool production facility from Mikhanovichi [Dmitry Zhuk](#); lawyer from Grodno [Yuri Yedkovsky](#); technician from Bobruisk [Kirill Sorokin](#); candidate of sciences degree in veterinary medicine from Vitebsk [Denis Golubev](#); resident of Soligorsk [Sergei Rybalev](#); resident of Svetlogorsk [Darya Kalinova](#); furniture manufacturer from Molodechno [Alexander Karnatsky](#); resident of Nesvizh [Pavel Gubenko](#); resident of Minsk [Sergei Korzhevsky](#); IT specialist from Gomel [Vladimir Novik](#); resident of Vetka [Valery Melnikov](#); "Gomselmash" worker from Gomel Sergei Yanchenko; school teacher from Mozyr [Alexander Parkhomenko](#); resident of Gomel [Gleb Goncharov](#); resident of Gomel Konstantin Kotov. Many of them were also charged under "extremism"-related provisions of the Criminal Code provisions applied in cases involving critical comments.

This article continues to be used as an instrument of transnational repression. Thus, on 8 May 2026, the Minsk City Court [handed down additional in absentia sentences](#) against several defendants in the case of the [attack on the Machulishchy airfield](#) on charges of "assistance to extremist activity" under part 2 of Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code. Yevgenia Tochitskaya, who had already been sentenced in absentia in October 2024 to 15 years' imprisonment in a penal colony on charges of "treason against the state" and "financing a terrorist organization," received an additional five-year sentence. By partial aggregation of the sentences, her final sentence was set at 17 years' imprisonment in a general-regime penal colony, together with a fine of 67,000 rubles (approximately \$20,000). Ekaterina Ostrova was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in a penal colony and fined 27,000 rubles (approximately \$8,000). Antonina Naidovich, who was additionally charged with "insulting a representative of the authorities," was sentenced to six years' imprisonment in a penal colony and fined 29,250 rubles (approximately \$8,600). Also convicted in the same case was former lawyer Andrei Balmakov, who remains in custody and had previously represented Belarusians in politically motivated cases following the 2020 protests. The case

concerns the drone attack on a Russian A-50 reconnaissance aircraft at the Machulishchy airfield on 26 February 2023. In October 2024, the Minsk City Court had already sentenced 12 defendants in the case to prison terms ranging from two years and three months to 25 years.

On 27 May 2026, it became known that the Orthodox priest of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Yuri (Georgy) Roy, who had spoken out against violence on the part of the regime and now lives in Lithuania, had been put on the wanted list — a criminal case was initiated against him under Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code.

The provision continues to be used to prosecute individuals for giving interviews to media outlets and organizations designated as “extremist.” More recently, such prosecutions have primarily targeted former political prisoners who, after their release, gave interviews abroad about the conditions in which they had been detained. [Criminal proceedings were reportedly initiated](#) against [Anna Kuris](#) and [Pavel Nikitenko](#) after they gave an interview to the Human Rights Center “Viasna,” and against [Alexei Romanov](#) after he gave an interview to the Belsat TV channel.

The provision on “assistance to extremist activity” has also been used to prosecute individuals for helping others leave Belarus in order to avoid further repression. On 6 May 2026, the Human Rights Center “Viasna” [reported on the sentencing](#) of 34-year-old Molodechno resident Alexander Korneev, who had emigrated to Poland but later returned to Belarus for reasons that remain unclear. On 16 November 2024, he had been sentenced in absentia to three years’ imprisonment in a reinforced-regime penal colony under Article 364 of the Criminal Code for “threatening violence against a law-enforcement officer.” After returning to Belarus, Korneev was convicted again, this time under Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code for “assistance to extremist activity.” He was sentenced to five years and six months’ imprisonment in a reinforced-regime penal colony and fined 42,000 rubles (approximately \$12,300). According to the investigation, Korneev “provided assistance to the extremist activity of the extremist formation ‘Dapamoga’ by organizing the illegal departure from the Republic of Belarus of persons who had been held criminally or administratively liable.” While in Poland, he allegedly arranged through an acquaintance for a mobile phone with internet access to be delivered to a person who had been released from detention, enabling that person to contact representatives of the designated “extremist formation.” He also allegedly passed the person’s contact details to “Dapamoga” to facilitate their departure for Lithuania and provided similar assistance to another person who had been subjected to administrative proceedings.

Cases against activists who remain in Belarus also continue to be documented.

On 30 April 2026, [it became known](#) that 70-year-old human rights defender Vladimir Telepun had been detained. He is being held in pre-trial detention despite his advanced age and [a cancer diagnosis](#). He is reportedly [charged under Articles 361-4 and 367](#) of the Criminal Code with “assistance to extremist activity” and “slandering Lukashenko.”

Article 367 of the Criminal Code. "Slander against the President of the Republic of Belarus"

This provision is used primarily to prosecute individuals for comments criticizing Alexander Lukashenko, including statements alleging his involvement in widespread human rights violations and other abuses. According to the authorities, such comments contain “knowingly false allegations

that defame and humiliate the honor and dignity of the Head of State” or “accusations of committing a particularly serious crime that humiliate his honor and dignity in connection with the exercise of his official powers, with the aim of undermining his authority and creating a negative perception and image of the President of the Republic of Belarus.” The maximum penalty under this provision is six years’ imprisonment. Between April and June 2026, 17 people convicted under this article were added to the authorities’ “list of extremists.”

On the 6 May 2026, it became known that in early February 2026 a court in Gomel had [sentenced Yevgeny Skochko](#), an activist of the 1990s "Young Front" who had withdrawn from political activism back in the early 2000s, to 3 years' imprisonment. Skochko was found guilty of "assistance to extremist activity," "slander against Alexander Lukashenko," "insulting the president," and "discrediting Belarus" under Articles 361-4, 367, 368, 369-1 of the Criminal Code. According to "Radio Svaboda," the pretext for the persecution was a comment on social networks in which he used the derogatory term ‘kalkhazan’ (‘country bumpkin’), as well as a statement that "Belarus is not a state governed by the rule of law."

Also, on 21 May 2026, [the prosecutor’s office reported](#) that a resident of the Glusk district had been sentenced under Article 367 of the Criminal Code to two years of “home chemistry” for posting videos critical of Lukashenko.

Article 368 of the Criminal Code. "Insulting the President of the Republic of Belarus"

Article 368 of the Criminal Code continued to be used to prosecute individuals for negative online statements about Alexander Lukashenko, including emotionally charged comments posted several years earlier in response to the onset of widespread human rights violations by the Lukashenko regime. Those prosecuted under this provision are most often accused of “posting electronic text containing an insult, expressed in an indecent form, against the President of the Republic of Belarus and degrading the authority, honor, and dignity of the Head of State.” The maximum penalty under Article 368 is five years’ imprisonment. The provision is frequently applied in conjunction with other criminal defamation provisions, in particular Article 369 of the Criminal Code (“insulting a representative of the authorities”). Between April and June 2026, 49 people convicted under Article 368 were added to the authorities’ “list of extremists.”

During the period under review, several new criminal cases under this provision became known.

- On 22 May 2026, pro-government channels [published](#) a “confession video” in which a resident of Logoisk, apparently under pressure from the security forces, stated that he had “made negative statements about the President of Belarus and the Minister of Internal Affairs” on TikTok.
- On 22 June 2026, [it became known](#) that the prosecutor’s office of Minsk’s Partizansky district had referred to court a criminal case against a 42-year-old man. According to the prosecutor’s office, between August and December 2021 he had “repeatedly posted insulting comments in various Telegram chats about the Head of State and members of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus.”

Article 369 of the Criminal Code. "Insulting a representative of the authorities"

Article 369 of the Criminal Code is used to prosecute individuals for negative comments about specific representatives of the authorities, most often in connection with alleged human rights violations committed in the course of their official duties. By contrast, Article 130 of the Criminal Code is used to prosecute negative statements concerning members of the security forces as a group. Those charged under Article 369 are most often accused of posting “negative messages and comments containing insulting allegations about a representative of the authorities, thereby degrading that person’s honor and dignity in connection with the performance of their official duties.” The maximum penalty under this provision is three years’ imprisonment. Between April and June 2026, 31 people convicted under Article 369 were added to the authorities’ “list of extremists.”

Detentions also continue in connection with comments posted during the 2020 protest period, more than five years earlier.

- On 11 May 2026, the Internal Affairs Directorate of the Minsk Regional Executive Committee [reported that officers of GUBOPiK](#) in the Minsk region had detained a 39-year-old native of the Brest region. The man had left Belarus for work in mid-2025 and was detained after returning in 2026 to replace lost documents. According to the authorities, while abroad he had “posted insulting comments about police officers in one of the Telegram channels designated as extremist.”
- On 26 May 2026, the Investigative Committee [published details](#) of a criminal case against a 47-year-old resident of Berezino. According to investigators, shortly before his detention the man left an “insulting message” about law-enforcement officers on the steps of the district police department. When officers attempted to take him to the station, he fled into a wooded area. He was found the following day after a large-scale search involving special units. According to the Investigative Committee, a firearm was used during his apprehension. The Investigative Committee also stated that the investigation had established that, “over a long period of time,” the man had posted materials “of an extremist nature” on social media, thereby, in the Committee’s wording, “undermining the authority of the state and discrediting law-enforcement officers.”
- On 3 June 2026, officers of the Main Directorate for Internal Security (GUSB) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Minsk region, supported by the Special Purpose Police Unit (OMON), [detained](#) a 41-year-old resident of the Soligorsk district. According to the authorities, he had “posted insulting comments about police officers in one of the Telegram channels designated as extremist,” including: “May you be buried in that basement” and “May your children be helped the way you were.” Criminal proceedings were initiated on suspicion of “publicly insulting a representative of the authorities in connection with the performance of official duties.” The police also reported that “measures are being taken to establish other instances of the detainee’s protest activity.”

Prosecution for statements concerning members of the security forces also has a transnational dimension.

- On 2 April 2026, [it became known](#) that, at the request of the Belarusian prosecutor’s office, a Russian citizen from the Smolensk region had been convicted in Russia for sending a threatening SMS message in 2020 to a serviceman of the Belarusian Interior Ministry’s Internal Troops in connection with his role in suppressing the protests. As extradition to

Belarus was not possible, the Belarusian Prosecutor General's Office transferred the case materials to the competent Russian authorities. The man was ultimately fined 50,000 Russian rubles (approximately \$620) and ordered to pay 100,000 Russian rubles (approximately \$1,240) in compensation for non-pecuniary harm to the security officer, who was recognized as the injured party.

- On 29 April 2026, [it became known](#) that criminal proceedings had been initiated against Grodno resident Igor Leonard, who has lived in Israel for several years. He runs a TikTok account with more than 17,500 followers, where he discusses corruption and alleged schemes involving Belarusian businesses. The criminal case was reportedly prompted by a video that received almost 350,000 views, in which Leonard commented on a visit by propagandist Grigory Azaryonok and deputy Sergei Gaidukevich to the Iranian embassy in Minsk and questioned why they had not made similar statements in connection with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Administrative offenses

Article 19.10 of the Administrative Code. "Propaganda or public demonstration, production, distribution of Nazi symbols or attributes"

For the first time in a considerable period, a case was reported involving detention for the online distribution of Nazi symbols.

On 1 June 2026, pro-government channels affiliated with the security forces reported the detention of a Minsk resident who had been selling Nazi symbols through the Kufar online marketplace, including Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe insignia, Iron Crosses, and other items associated with Nazi Germany, priced at between 20 and 30 rubles.

According to the security forces, the case involved not the sale of collectible items but the distribution of newly manufactured Nazi symbols. The detainee was sentenced to 15 days of administrative detention. The security forces also stated that they had obtained a list of buyers and were taking measures to identify and investigate them.

Article 19.11 of the Code of Administrative Offences — "Dissemination, Production, Storage or Transportation of Information Products Containing Calls for Extremist Activity or Promoting Such Activity"

The dissemination, production, storage, transportation, or other handling of materials classified as "extremist" may give rise to administrative liability under Article 19.11 of the Code of Administrative Offences. In practice, conduct that may result in liability includes forwarding "extremist" publications in group chats or private messages, reposting "extremist" materials on social media, as well as certain forms of engagement with content published by resources designated as "extremist," including likes, comments, and subscriptions. The penalties available

under Article 19.11 include a fine of between 10 and 500 basic units (approximately 450–22,500 Belarusian rubles, or approximately USD 125–6,250) or administrative detention for up to 15 days. Despite the fact that in the public space human rights defenders record a decrease in the mention of cases under Article 19.11 of the Administrative Code, it should be assumed that [far more detentions and trials](#) under this article take place than [can be recorded](#), based on previous analyzed periods when the number of such cases reached several hundred or even a thousand.

Legal entities

Government bodies continue to combat "extremist" books offered for sale in online stores.

On 13 May 2026, the prosecutor's office of the Zavodskoy district of Minsk [reported](#) that, in the course of monitoring one of the marketplaces, a book by the German military figure Heinz Guderian, "Memoirs of a German General. The Tank Forces of Germany in the Second World War 1939–1945," that was recognized as an "extremist material" by a decision of the court of the Zavodskoy district of 14 November 2025, had been identified. An order was issued to the representative of the owner and operator of the marketplace on the immediate removal of the edition from the catalog of goods. The requirements, according to the department, were fulfilled in full.

Natural persons

Given that the list of "extremist materials" includes more than 10,000 entries with a combined reach of a multi-million audience, a formal basis for holding someone accountable can be found in the smartphone of practically every Belarusian user. Any online activity connected with pro-democratic resources may become a pretext for punishment.

On 8 April 2026, the prosecutor of the Ivatsevichi district Alexander Khomich, during a meeting with the [population, stated that](#) "at present, liability arises for subscribing to communities, channels, chats included in the list of extremist ones," and also added that "reposts, likes, emoji reactions, and comments under publications on these resources also contribute to the dissemination of unlawful information." He separately stated that "there is no statute of limitations for such materials," without providing any legal justification for such a loud assertion. During the analyzed period, it became known about the imposition of a fine on a Belarusian woman for subscribing to the group "Charter'97" on "Odnoklassniki," as well as about the persecution of an activist from Miory, Sergei Vasilyev, for "extremist subscriptions" on Facebook.

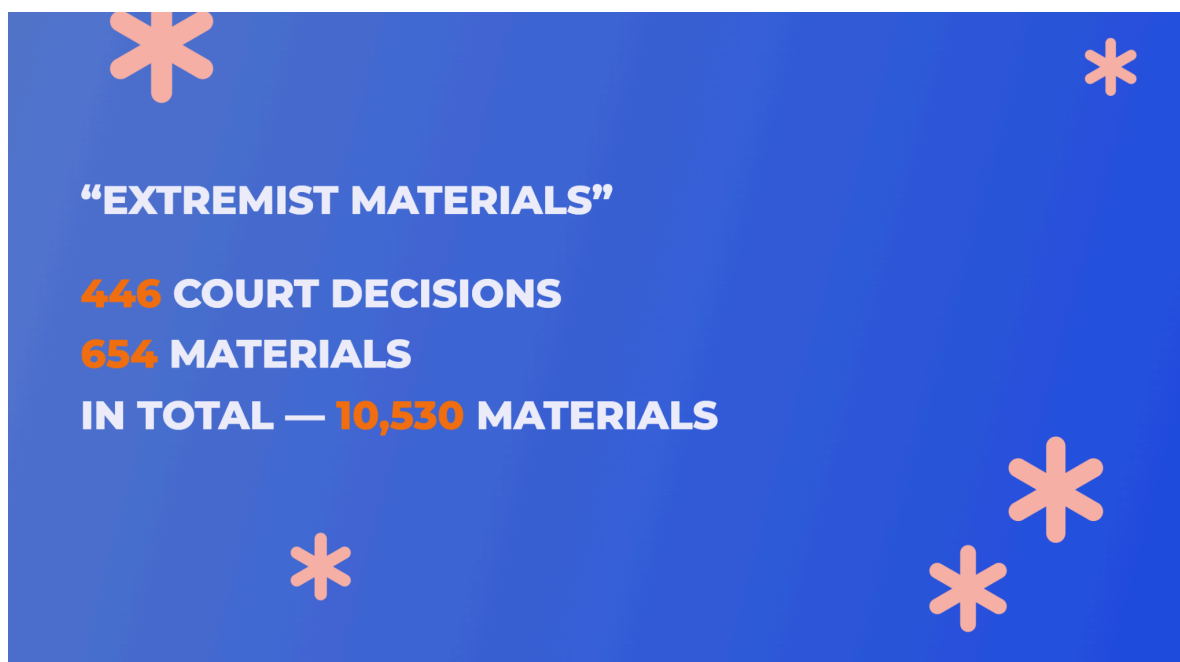
At the same time, any social media activity, even if entirely unrelated to politics, may serve as grounds for scrutiny by the security authorities, including the inspection of electronic devices and the imposition of penalties for subscriptions to resources designated as "prohibited." On 1 May 2026, [it became known](#) that a 38-year-old resident of Lida had filmed a video on TikTok criticizing the work of the State Automobile Inspectorate (GAI) following a traffic accident involving his wife, which lead to him being subjected to repression under Article 19.11 of the Administrative Code. The arriving security forces drew up an administrative protocol for "interference in the administrative process," and at the same time checked his phone and [discovered](#) "extremist" subscriptions on social media.

Detentions of people continue after mass inspections of phones at the border upon entry into Belarus — [an example of such a practice](#) is [the detention](#) at the Polish-Belarusian border of photographer Andrei Lenkevich for a subscription to an "extremist resource" on his phone.

Courts continue to interpret the devices of detained people, which they presumably used to interact with "extremist materials," as "instruments used to commit the offence" — in which case people's devices are subject to confiscation. Thus, on 22 June 2026 [it became known](#) that an assistant of a department of one of the Minsk universities had been arrested for 15 days for storing on his phone a screenshot of an article from the Telegram channel "Nasha Niva." In addition to the arrest, his expensive mobile phone, where the screenshot was found, was confiscated.

Repressive measures for links to, and subscriptions to, resources designated as "extremist" do not, however, appear to be applied to supporters or representatives of the authorities. This selective enforcement further suggests that anti-extremism legislation is [used primarily against opponents of the regime](#). On 18 May 2026, the fifth anniversary of the crackdown on TUT.BY, [Zerkalo highlighted a striking inconsistency](#): although all 700,000 materials published by the portal have officially been designated as "extremist," links to them remain available on the websites of state authorities and public institutions, including executive committees, hospitals, schools, the Vitebsk Diocese, and the State Committee of Forensic Examinations. Until April 2026, the State Control Committee also used, in its Telegram channel, a photograph taken by a TUT.BY photographer to illustrate its publications. In addition, the website of the Property Management Directorate of the President of Belarus continues to host a full reproduction of material originally published by the portal. No liability appears to have been imposed in connection with these instances. [According to Byuro](#), Dmitry Lukashenko, the middle son of Alexander Lukashenko, is also subscribed on Instagram to the account @belarusnovosti2, which has been designated as "extremist material," yet he has likewise not faced any apparent consequences.

Changes to the Republican List of Extremist Materials



Between April and June 2026, information on 446 new court decisions designating materials as “extremist” was added to the Republican List of Extremist Materials published on the website of the Ministry of Information (compared with 365 decisions in the previous reporting period). In total, 654 information products were banned during the quarter (compared with 616 in the preceding three months). As of 1 July 2026, the List contained 10,530 materials.

During the reporting period, the authorities placed particular emphasis on designating accounts on Threads, TikTok, and Facebook as “extremist materials.” In many cases, the only evidence relied upon to establish the purported presence of “extremism” in a particular information product is an opinion issued by the Republican Commission for the Assessment of Symbols, Attributes, and Information Products. The Commission [consists](#) of 22 government-aligned members and includes no independent experts. It is chaired by former Minister of Information Lidia Ananich, while its deputy chair is Denis Yezersky, a former district-level official of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM) who later became the chief ideology official of the Gomel Region. More than half of the Commission’s members represent security and law-enforcement bodies, including GUBOPiK, the Investigative Committee, the Border Guard Service, the customs authorities, and the Military Academy. The remaining members include a former Prosecutor General, the head of the state television channel ONT, representatives of the National Academy of Sciences, and education officials. According to our data and [investigations conducted by independent media](#), the Commission’s opinions contain no substantive reasoning. Their conclusions generally consist of broad references to or excerpts from legislation and are virtually identical from case to case, despite the wide variety of materials reviewed by the Commission. Authors and owners of content designated as “extremist” are effectively deprived of the opportunity to challenge such decisions.

On 4 June 2026, human rights defender and former political prisoner Leonid Sudalenko [published a response](#) from the Molodechno District Court to his request for a copy of the court ruling by which his TikTok account had been designated as “extremist materials.” The court refused to provide him with a copy, stating that “there are no grounds for issuing a copy of the requested decision, since, in accordance with Articles 57 and 60 of the Code of Civil Procedure of the Republic of Belarus,” he “does not belong to the persons entitled to receive them.” At the same time, Sudalenko had not been notified that the proceedings were taking place.

It is telling that the basis for recognizing an online page as an “extremist material” may not be page’s own content, but merely the presence of subscriptions or reposts from other already-banned resources. This follows from [the court decision on the Facebook page](#) of politician Nikolai Statkevich: the prosecutor considered the mere presence of links and subscriptions to banned accounts sufficient grounds for recognizing it as “extremist.”

In April–June 2026, the following materials continue to be recognized as “extremist”:

- *resources of independent Belarusian media*: the YouTube channel of the project “PARA!/PARA!”, “Radio Ratsyya”; the Threads accounts “rozum.media,” “kyky_org,” [“Charter97.org.”](#) “Filizanka - Poland News,” “Zerkalo. News”; the Instagram accounts “kratko_belarus”; the Telegram and Instagram accounts “BelNovosti”; the Facebook accounts “Malanka Media,” “Belsat in Russian,” “Pozirk – News about Belarus”; the logo of “Radio Svaboda – Belarus” (an image of a white torch on an orange background); the TikTok accounts “Belarus News and Politics,” “Malanka Media,” “Flagshtok”; the websites “Pinsk Life,” “Pershy Rehiyon”; the social networks of the project “Minsk Region News”;
- *resources of foreign media and blogs*: the TikTok account of Latvian blogger Arturs Burinskis, the YouTube channel of Russian blogger Yuri Dud “vDud,” the Dzen-platform account of blogger Ilya Varlamov, the Facebook accounts of the European media resource Voxeurope and Ukrainian blogger Alexander Rykov (BalaganOFF); the website of the Ukrainian media “European Truth,” the Threads account of the Latvian organization “FreeBelarus”;
- *resources of foreign and international organizations*: the Instagram accounts of the Belarus office of Germany’s largest political foundation, the Konrad Adenauer foundation, of the Norwegian organization “Solidaritet med Belarus,” Danish organization DIGNITY (Danish Institute Against Torture); the Facebook accounts of the German organization “Deutsch-belarussische gesellschaft (dbg),” of the Polish organization “Fundacja ‘Za Wolność Waszą i Naszą’”; the Facebook and Instagram accounts of the Swedish “Right Livelihood” award;
- *accounts of organizations and fighters opposing Russian aggression*: the Threads accounts of the veterans, volunteers, and families of the Kalinowski Regiment “Hramada Kalinoutsy,” volunteer Denis Urbanovich; the Instagram accounts of Belarusian volunteer Andrei Bessmertny, “Belarusian Volunteer Corps,” the UAV unit of the “Volat” battalion within the Kalinowski Regiment, the initiative to support Belarusian veterans and their families “Roskvit”; the Facebook account of the center of Belarusian volunteers operating in Ukraine “Sustrecha”; the Instagram and Telegram accounts of the Belarusian special-purpose unit “1514” within the AFU;
- *accounts of politically active Belarusians*: the Threads accounts of Svetlana Tikhanovskaya’s civil adviser Anatoly Lebedko, political scientist Alina Kharysova, activist

Andrei Tkachev, basketball player Ekaterina Snytnina, the author of the YouTube channel "ChestnOK" Alexander Ivulin, humanitarian aid organizer Andrei Strizhak, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya's adviser Franak Vyachorka, mostmedia journalist Ruslan Kulevich, Malanka Media and Belsat journalist Ekaterina Yeruslimskaya, journalist and editor-in-chief of Belsat TV Alina Kovshik, activist and Coordination Council election participant Vasily Pleshkunov; the Instagram accounts of the designer of the clothing brand "Znivien" Vladimir Malyavko, political scientist and public figure Andrei Yegorov, member of the People's Embassy of Belarus in Scotland Irina McLean, designer Yuri Degtyarev, the representative of the United Transitional Cabinet for the economy and finance Alisa Ryzhnychenko, journalist and former director of Belsat TV Alexei Dikavitsky, IT specialist Pavel Lovtsevich, human rights defender Natalya Goryachko-Basalyga, "Malanka Media" media platform host Ekaterina Pytleva, author of the channel "Tuteishy Shlyakhtsich" Vladislav Pashkevich; the Facebook accounts of activist Vitaly Trigubov, director of "Nasha Niva" Anastasia Rovdo, lawyer Anna Matievskaya, head of "Malanka Media" Pavel Marinich, founder of the Belarusian Popular Front Vintsuk Vecherko, political scientist Pavel Usov, civic activist Anton Motolko, Belpol representative Vladimir Zhigar, the representative of Belarusians of Luxembourg Mikhail Kuchеров, blogger Sergei Petrukhin, political columnist Pavlyuk Bykovsky, political figure Yuri Gubarevich; the TikTok account of human rights defender Leonid Sudalenko; the Facebook and Threads accounts of the head of the Center of the Democratic Community of Belarusians at the Office of Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, Yulia Yukhno-Tarasevich; the social networks of the director of the Belarusian Sport Solidarity Foundation Alexander Opeikin, as well as a number of other social media accounts belonging to non-public Belarusians who post opposition symbols or critical posts;

- *accounts of foreign citizens connected with Belarus:* the Facebook account of the Belarusian-speaking citizen of Israel, IDF sergeant Boris David Balte;
- *pages of (ex-)political prisoners:* the Threads account of Sergei Sparish, the Facebook account of Nikolai Statkevich, the Instagram accounts of Andrei Chepyuk and Antonina Konovalova;
- *resources of pro-democratic political movements and projects:* the Threads accounts "Belpol News," "Maladaya Hramada"; the TikTok account "Belpol"; the Instagram accounts "team_ivulin," "bkspahonia," "Belarus Passport Center," "Belarusian Young Greens"; the Facebook accounts "Belarusian Greens BPZ," "Rukh Solidarnastsi Razam"; the social networks of the "Libertarian Movement of Belarus";
- *resources with political analytics:* the social networks of the project "Belarus. Ekspertiza," the TikTok account of political scientist Sergei Chaly;
- *pro-democratic information resources and blogs:* the TikTok accounts "basta_bel," "centrbelcom," "worldnewsreporter," "Alexandr Rudenok," "_zemlianin," and many others; the "X" account "Voice of Belarus"; the Telegram channel of blogger "Sery Kot"; the Threads account "daroha"; the "VKontakte" account "NEXTA Live"; the YouTube channels "ZUKH Žmicer," "Pershy – regions of Belarus";
- *local opposition chats and accounts that had not previously come to the attention of the security forces:* the Telegram account "Kolasa-Vostochnaya-Belinskogo-Melezha";
- *social media accounts of Belarusian diasporas around the world:* the Facebook accounts "ByMarka," "Insieme-Vmeste," "Belarusians in Bielsko-Biala," "Belarusian Volunteers of Bielsko-Biala," "Belarusians of Tampa and surroundings," "Belarusians of Ukraine,"

"Belarusians in Germany / Belarusians in Deutschland," "Hey Warsaw•News," "Embassy of the 'People of Belarus in Germany,'" "Belarusians in Italy," "Narodowa Ambasada Białorusi w Polsce / People's Embassy of Belarus in Poland"; the Threads accounts "Belarusians in Chicago," of the Association of Belarusians in America; the Instagram accounts "Belarus en France," "Belarusians of Tampa," "Kansas City for Free Belarus," "Belarusians in Greece," of Belarusians in Kyiv "dzieja.kyiv"; the website and social networks of the organization "BELARUS FREEDOM PHILADELPHIA"; the Facebook and Instagram accounts "Baza Florida";

- *resources of independent trade unions*: the Telegram channel "Strike Committee Grodno Khimvolokno";
- *resources of a number of human rights and other non-profit activist organizations*: the Facebook account "Belarusian Human Rights House named after Boris Zvozkov," "RAZAM e.V. - Belarussische Gemeinschaft"; the Threads accounts of HRC "Viasna," of the Volunteer Service of HRC "Viasna," "freeviasna," "Free Belarus Women," "Zadzinochanne Belaruskikh Studentau" (Association of Belarusian Students), "baj.media.by"; the Instagram accounts "Heta Moladz," "Rozniya-Rounyya"; the website of the organization "Ekodom"; the TikTok account, YouTube channel, and website of the organization "InshyYa"; the "X" account "MĀRA | Baltkrievu sieviešu biedrība";
- *resources connected with Belarusian culture, history, and symbols*: the Facebook accounts of the brand "Znivien," "Prastora KH," of the independent publishing house "Vyasna," "Zagadki belaruskai gistoryi" (Riddles of Belarusian History), "History of Belarus," "Free Belarus Museum," of the film "NIXTO" based on the events in Belarus in 2020; the Threads accounts of playwright and director Andrei Kureichik, of the national-symbols store "batumiby.ge"; the Instagram accounts of the Belarusian Union of Designers (BSD), of the film festival "bulbamovie"; the YouTube video "This isn't in the textbooks: The Bloody History of Belarus"; the website and social networks of the "Krily Halopa" (Wings of a Serf) Theater; the website, social networks, and applications of "Brest Stories Guide";
- *independent educational initiatives*: the Instagram accounts "American Center Minsk," "Volny Belaruskii Universitet" (Free Belarusian University); the Telegram channels "Studfreedom | Belarus," "Come here: educational events in Belarus and beyond"; the social networks of the foreign-language school "LVS Language School";
- *resources connected with the promotion of the Belarusian language*: the "X" account "Karani Belaruskai," the Facebook account of the educational project about the Belarusian language "Mova Nanova – TV version," the Threads account "Tolki pra movu" (Just about language), the groups on "VKontakte" and "Odnoklassniki" under the name "Bibliyateka Kamunikat – Kamunikat";
- *resources of independent musicians*: the Instagram account of a representative of the band "Botanic Project," the Threads accounts of the vocalist of the Belarusian metal band "Gods Tower" Vladislav Novozhilov; the website and social networks of the band "NAVIBAND"; the Telegram channel "'Volny chor' Choir of free Belarusians";
- *satirical resources*: the Threads accounts "ChinChinChenel," "Bulbofurer," "Sad Kolenka," as well as dozens of TikTok accounts;
- *independent religious resources*: the TikTok account "Christians against war," as well as the page "Appeal to the Christians of Belarus";
- *resources of anarchist initiatives*: the Threads account of activist Nikolai Dedok, the Instagram account "fnb_minsk," the Telegram channel "Anarchy+."

Recently, the Ministry of Information has shown increasing carelessness in maintaining the List, including duplicate entries and numerous grammatical and factual errors. Examples include “Prozashchitnik” against torture” instead of “Pravozashchitniki” Against Torture,” and “the social network Treads” instead of “Threads,” among many others. One particularly telling technical oddity concerns a Telegram chat with an apparently obscene name. The compilers replaced parts of the name with asterisks, but did the same in the hyperlink itself: “Telegram chat ‘u** b****,’ identified by the link https://t.me/y***B****.”

As a result, a document that is ostensibly intended to serve as a practical reference for the public contains an entry that, by design, does not allow the banned resource to be reliably identified. The list is actively filled with communities that have long been inactive:

- the Instagram account "freebelarus," inactive since 30 March 2022;
- the website of the initiative "Human rights defenders against torture," inactive since 20 June 2022;
- the Facebook group "Alternative Youth Platform," the last post in which is dated June 2017.

Random resources in no way connected with the socio-political situation in Belarus also continued to end up on the list:

- the TikTok accounts "Belavezha belt," "Not Luninets, but Luninets," "First of all, I'm from Pinsk," "Yanovo," "grodnovosti44," which publish regional news of a neutral nature, as well as "brest_region," covering social problems and local incidents;
- the Telegram channel "GAI Postavy," in which, until 2020, the locations of traffic police posts in Postavy were reported. At present, the channel consists entirely of junk advertising.

In April 2026, pro-government resources en masse published direct or indirect calls to recognize the entire YouTube platform as an "extremist material" — against the backdrop of the platform's removal of a number of state channels. On 3 April 2026, YouTube [removed the channels](#) of the state news agency BELTA, as well as of the pro-government television channels ONT and STV. The most likely pretext for the blocking was the unlawful publication of personal data: the day before the removal, STV host Roman Protasevich, on his program, disclosed the personal data of the founder of the Belarusian Investigative Center, Stanislav Ivashkevich. Ivashkevich filed a complaint with YouTube, after which the channel was removed. In response, the Belteleradiocompany [called for the platform to be recognized](#) as "extremist"; the Ministry of Information [stated](#) that it "assesses this unfriendly and groundless step negatively and reserves the right to take the necessary response measures." At the time of the review's publication, this rhetoric had not become the basis for any practical actions on the part of state bodies — the list continues to be regularly filled only with individual pro-democratic YouTube channels.

During the analyzed period, the list of "extremist materials" was for the first time filled with social media pages that had belonged to deceased activists. This attests to the fact that the repressive mechanism continues to function in relation to the digital legacy of those who are no longer alive. Thus, by decisions of the court of the Glusk district of the Mogilev region of 4 May 2026, two accounts of deceased individuals were recognized as "extremist materials" at once: the Facebook page of Rechitsa activist Oleg Shabetnik, [who died of coronavirus](#) on 21 October 2021, and the Facebook account of [the artist and political prisoner Ales Pushkin](#), sentenced to five years in a maximum-security penal colony for a series of portraits of participants in the Belarusian anti-Soviet

resistance and who died in intensive care due to medical care being provided too late for a perforated ulcer on 11 July 2023.

For the first time since monitoring began, the List included a Reddit page: the subreddit “r/belarusmaidan,” featuring a white-red-white banner.

After a period of absence, another environmental initiative was added to the List: the website and social media accounts of the “Green Telephone” project. For the first time since 2024, the List also included a resource associated with football supporters: belultras.com, a website covering the fan movement in Belarus and abroad. The List also included numerous historical films critical of the Soviet regime, materials documenting crimes committed by its representatives, and biographies of anti-Soviet figures. These included, for example, “Krou i popel Drazhna” (“Blood and Ashes of Drazhno”), “Rastislau Lapitski! Hero of the National Resistance!,” “Brothers in Blood! NKVD=GESTAPO,” and “The Cursed and the Forgotten!” At the same time, the repressive mechanisms of Belarusian “anti-extremist” legislation were, paradoxically, also applied to pro-Soviet and Soviet-nostalgic content. The Leninsky District Court of Mogilev designated as “extremist materials” the VKontakte page “Mogilev and the Mogilev Region USSR/BSSR,” as well as the Telegram chats “Information Chat of the USSR” and “Belarusian SSR” — resources promoting Soviet identity and rejecting the legitimacy of the dissolution of the USSR.

The list increasingly includes films that criticize the Belarusian regime or that display information about its violation of human rights. For example, the film “Zhyve Belarus!” (Long Live Belarus!) of 2012, [made by the Polish director](#) Krzysztof Łukaszewicz based on a script by the current chief adviser to Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, Franak Vyachorka, was recognized as an “extremist material.”

Courts continue to target digital stickers. In a single decision issued on 24 June 2026, the Partizansky District Court of Minsk designated as “extremist materials” as many as 60 pro-democracy Telegram sticker packs comprising hundreds of individual images. The list was also filled with stickers in no way connected with socio-political processes — stickers depicting the Belarusian trash blogger MELLSTROY, in particular 120 stickers under the name “Mellstroy” and 50 stickers under the name “MELLSTROY INSIDE by.”

The List continues to include not only online resources but also printed publications deemed objectionable by the authorities. At the same time, it still remains unclear what criteria state bodies are guided by in distinguishing between books included in the “extremist list” and editions ending up in the “list of banned books.” In the analyzed quarter, the previous scale of recognizing books as “extremist” was maintained; a total of 8 printed publications ended up in the list.

- “Apošniaje pakaljennje” (The Last Generation, 2024) by Makar Volynkin — a novella about Minsk youth living an ordinary life in the realities of the post-2020 era. The main character works at an advertising agency surrounded by people with radically different views on life and is in an anxious search for the “right” path.
- “Tam, dze nas njama” (There, Where We Are Not, 2025) by Max Shnur — a satirical dystopia whose action unfolds in an absurd parallel world representing a radically meaningless version of the Belarus of the 1990s. Against the backdrop of nationwide absurdity, young protagonists search for meaning and adventure. The book combines elements of a detective story, parapsychology, and the ethnophilosophy of a non-existent ethnos.

- "Historyčnyja pracy, tom 1" (Historical Works, vol. 1) by Alexander Tsvikevich — academic historical works by an outstanding Belarusian socio-political figure and historian of the first half of the 20th century. Tsvikevich was shot in Minsk in 1937 during the Stalinist repressions.

Some books from the list are detective novels in the Belarusian language — the reasons for their inclusion in the list are unknown.

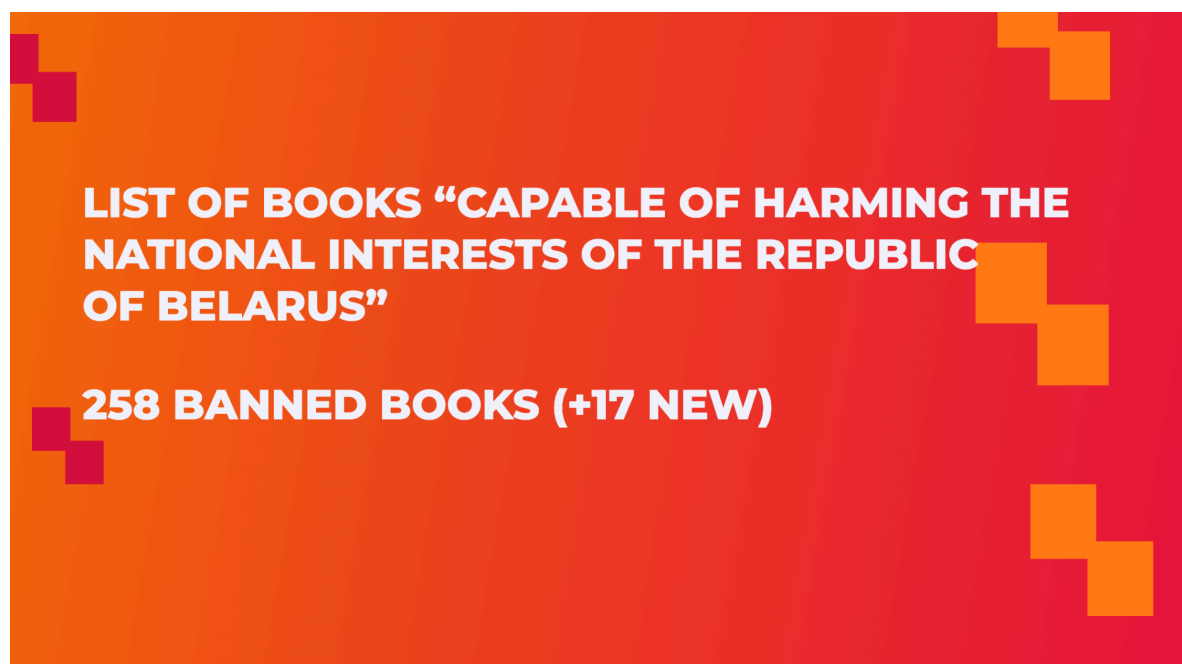
- "Nastupny prypynak – smerts" (The Next Stop is Death, 2025) by Kamila Tsen — detective novellas continuing the adventures of Zinaida Yuryevna, a ticket inspector on Minsk public transport who unravels the strangest cases in the city's back alleys. The action unfolds in colorful Minsk locations. The book is written partly in trasyanka and is sustained in a humorous detective vein.

Notably, among the printed publications recognized as "extremist" were human rights reports and analytical studies, many of which are devoted to events of twenty to thirty years ago and were published in the period from 2000 to 2010. This attests to the fact that not only current materials but also long-published texts fall under the ban, which effectively means a ban on any independent documentation and analysis of Belarusian socio-political history.

- "Mjascovyja vybary u najnoušaj palityčnaj gistoryi Belarusi" (Local Elections in the Recent Political History of Belarus, 2003) — an analytical study by the Minsk "Analitychny hrudok," devoted to the institution of local elections in post-Soviet Belarus. The book examines local electoral campaigns as an indicator of the degradation of political competition and records the growing discrepancy between Belarusian electoral practice and democratic standards;
- "Najnoušaja gistoryja belaruskaha parljamentaryzmu" (The Recent History of Belarusian Parliamentarism, 2005) — a historical-analytical study tracing the evolution of Belarusian parliamentarism from a political locomotive of the early 1990s to a decorative institution deprived of real powers. It covers all parliamentary campaigns from 1990 to 2004;
- "The Human Rights Situation in Belarus in 2008" (2009) — an annual human rights report systematizing the violations of fundamental rights and freedoms in Belarus over the indicated period: freedom of speech, assembly, fair trial, as well as the situation of political prisoners;
- "Zbornik analitychnykh dakladau" (Collection of Analytical Reports, 2009) — a collective compilation of expert materials on topical socio-political issues of Belarusian reality, published in Vilnius by the Center for the Support of Publishing Initiatives (a structure that produces independent Belarusian-language literature outside the country).

Yet more individual materials on a neo-Nazi matter ended up in the list: 43 Telegram stickers with the name "Nazi deutschland," 111 stickers with the name "Nazi to die," 118 stickers with the name "Germany," 52 stickers "GroßDeutschland Reich," the Telegram channels "Fastsiya" and "Sampo." The share of such resources out of the total number of additions to the list in the analyzed quarter amounted to only about 3.5%. The Belarusian authorities also banned the symbols of the German clothing brand Thor Steinar in the Viking-aesthetic style — both the old emblem, which contained runes used in SS symbols and banned in Germany, and the new logo, formally sanitized of these symbols.

Changes in the List of printed publications containing information messages and (or) materials distribution of which are capable of harming the national interests of the Republic of Belarus



On 21 November 2024, the Ministry of Information for the first time posted on its website a "list of printed publications banned from distribution in Belarus." During the analyzed period, the list was also updated with editions objectionable to the authorities — by a total of 17 books. As of 1 July 2026, 258 editions are listed. The decision to include an item on the list is based on a finding by the Republican Commission for the Assessment of Symbols, Attributes, and Information Products, whose primary function is to determine whether information products contain signs of “extremism.”

[According to the Ministry of Information](#), printed publications that "harm the national interests" are those that "distort historical truth and justice, promote non-traditional sexual relations, religious intolerance, violence, cruelty, and pornography, incite enmity and hatred, popularize subcultures non-traditional for Belarusian society, as well as editions on the sexual education of children capable of exerting a negative influence on their physical and mental development, and distorting the notion of true family values."

[According to Lilia Ananich](#), chair of the “expert commission,” publications promoting values that conflict with what she described as Belarusian national foundations are relatively rare in Belarus. She said that such materials consist mainly of imported works and translations by Western authors, which she characterized as reflecting a broader civilizational confrontation between a society of consumption and permissiveness and a society grounded in traditional values and its own vision of national development and state-building.

LGBTQ+ themes and queer narratives

As before, the mere presence of LGBTQ+ characters in a text, regardless of genre and artistic context, apparently remains sufficient grounds for including a book in the list.

- ["These Witches Don't Burn"](#) (Isabel Sterling) — a fantasy novel for teenagers and young adults about a young witch investigating a series of dark rituals in her town. In parallel, the heroine is going through a breakup with her ex-girlfriend and falls in love. The author herself is part of the LGBTQ+ community.
- ["Us," "Him," and "Epic"](#) (Sarina Bowen, Elle Kennedy) — a series of novels about a same-sex relationship between two professional hockey players. The books constitute romantic prose with explicit erotic content, a USA Today bestseller.
- ["Night Side of the River"](#) (Jeanette Winterson) — a collection of ghost stories by one of the most well-known queer authors of British literature, a laureate of several major awards. The stories interweave traditional horror with contemporary themes: artificial intelligence, the metaverse, and grief after the loss of a loved one. Same-sex relationships are present in a number of the stories.
- ["Our Little Fish"](#) (Fox Robin) — urban prose about two male friends who face rising romantic attraction towards each other and a girl who becomes part of their relationship. The book first appeared as a text on a self-publishing platform and gathered a wide audience on the Russian-speaking internet even before its official release with a publisher.
- ["The Chariot of Time"](#) (Tatyana Stepanova) — a Russian police detective novel about an employee of the press service of the Main Internal Affairs Directorate who helps investigate a series of murders leading to a wealthy family. The book's author is herself a serving police lieutenant colonel. The novel stands out by portraying gay people with sympathy rather than condemnation — apparently, it was precisely the sympathy that served as the basis for the ban.

Special attention should be paid to a book the inclusion of which on the list is least obvious from the standpoint of formal criteria. The grounds for inclusion in the list are non-obvious and are probably connected with the fact that other books by the same author contain romantic relationships between men.

- ["Alternate. The Enemy at Your Back"](#) (Medina Mirai) — a teen urban fantasy about a superhero from another dimension who renounced the throne for the sake of protecting people from monsters on Earth. A sequel to a popular series.

Crime fiction, horror, and psychological thrillers

As in previous updates, a significant share of the list consists of texts covering the themes of crime, violence, and the dark side of the human psyche, including within the framework of the established genre traditions of Scandinavian noir and the French detective novel.

- ["The Chestnut Man"](#) (Søren Sveistrup) — a Scandinavian detective novel about a serial killer who leaves a homemade doll made of chestnuts at the scene of each crime. Investigators discover on the dolls the fingerprints of a girl considered to have been dead for a year already. Written by the creator of the Danish series "The Killing"; a series based on

the book was made on Netflix. It is on the lists of the best books of the year according to the BBC and Guardian.

- ["The Well of Death"](#) (Céline Denjean) — a French detective novel about a woman who was nearly killed right in her own home: the perpetrator tied her up in the bathroom and turned on the tap. The story is told in two timelines, and it turns out that the roots of the crime go back to events at a closed private school twenty years earlier.
- ["The Python's Whisper"](#) (Silje Ulstein) — a Norwegian thriller about family secrets, unusual in form: part of the narration is conducted from the perspective of a python living with the main heroine. A national bestseller, translated in 12 countries.
- ["Unclean Souls"](#) (Han Song) — Chinese dystopian fiction, the second part of a trilogy about a hospital as a metaphor for society. The author is one of the most well-known Chinese science-fiction writers; he is compared simultaneously with Kafka, Dick, and Pelevin. The books could not be released in China itself for years due to their overly sharp view of the state and modernization.

Dark romance

Dark romance is a popular genre of romantic prose in which a love story unfolds in a deliberately uncomfortable setting: the characters manipulate one another, one of them holds power over the other, and the relationship is built on tension, coercion, stalking, and obsession. This is a mass commercial genre, widely published by major Western publishers. The basis for inclusion in the list, apparently, is the sexual and psychologically destructive content.

- ["Wolves. The Brotherhood of Vice"](#) and ["Wolves. Varg|Veum"](#) (Lea Stenberg) — two novels of a Norwegian series about an elite student brotherhood with a rigid internal hierarchy. Membership in the brotherhood is conditioned on sexual demands from its head; the line between voluntary choice and coercion is deliberately blurred.
- ["Reciprocity"](#) (HS Dolores) — the second part of a duology in the same genre. At the center of the plot is a painful connection with a ten-year time gap: while the heroine tried to move on, the hero watched her the whole time and would not let her go. The publisher describes the book through the tropes of stalking, obsession, and a "thirst for absolute possession."

Counterculture and destructive behavior

The list also came to include a canonical work of Western counterculture, a development that appears consistent with a broader pattern of removing literature that challenges established institutional norms.

- ["The Wild Boys"](#) (William Burroughs) — a 1971 novel by one of the most well-known American writers of the 20th century, whose books were banned and confiscated around the world for decades. At the center of the plot is a gang of young anarchists terrorizing the cities of North Africa: they live outside any laws, practicing violence, drugs, and homosexual sex as a form of rebellion against the state and public morality. It is on authoritative lists of the most important works of world literature.

Changes in the List of Organizations, Formations, Individual Entrepreneurs Involved In Extremist Activities

“EXTREMIST FORMATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS”

**31 NEW “FORMATIONS” AND
2 NEW “ORGANIZATIONS” (OUT OF 369)**

As of 1 July 2026, the List of Organizations, Formations, and Individual Entrepreneurs Involved in Extremist Activities included 365 formations designated as “extremist” by decisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs or the KGB, as well as four organizations designated as such by court decisions. It should be noted that in May 2022, the Belarusian Independent Trade Union of Workers of [OAO Hrodna Azot](#) was also designated an “extremist organization,” but, for reasons that remain unclear, it does not appear on the list. In four cases involving “formations,” the Ministry of Internal Affairs published separate “appendices,” which appear as individual entries in the list and are included in its overall numbering. During the three-month period, 31 new “extremist formations” and two “extremist organizations” were added to the list. Compared with January–March 2026, the number of newly added “extremist formations” more than doubled.

Chats of prisoners' relatives

During the analyzed period, informal online communities in which relatives of prisoners simply exchanged information about the conditions of detention, care packages, and the rules of the institutions began to be massively included in the list of “extremist formations.” On 6 April 2026, the KGB simultaneously recognized 22 such communities as “extremist”: 10 chats on Telegram, 9 on Viber, and 3 communities on VKontakte, united under the single name “SIZO No. 1 Kolyadichi” — the name of the largest of such chats, containing about 1,800 members.

Electoral lists in the Coordination Council elections and other opposition political movements

During the period under review, the KGB designated six electoral lists that had contested elections to the fourth convocation of the opposition Coordination Council as “extremist formations.” For each entry, the list identifies the members corresponding to the published electoral slate, as well as the associated online resources. This was not the first such instance: the KGB had previously designated electoral lists participating in the 2024 Coordination Council elections as “extremist formations.”

The following factions were added to the list:

- "Vash Golas" (Your Voice) — a list of 19 candidates. It offers the "Sabes u dyaspary"/"Conversations with the diaspora" program to help Belarusians abroad with residence permits and employment.
- "Nastup" (Offense) — a list of 13 candidates under the leadership of Elizaveta Prokopchik. It calls the release of political prisoners the "central priority," viewing sanctions as an instrument for political negotiations about their release. It insists on protecting Belarusians from discrimination "based on passports."
- "Khopits bayatstva" / "Khvatit boyatsya" (Enough Being Afraid) — a list of 13 candidates under the leadership of Tatyana Martynova. It demands the introduction of mirror sanctions against the regime — analogous to those applied against Russia. It insists on the application of universal jurisdiction to investigate the crimes of the authorities.
- "Ab'yadnanaya gramadzyanskaya platforma" (United Civic Platform) — a list of 22 candidates. It places the release of political prisoners and their rehabilitation among the main priorities, and promises practical help to Belarusians with documents and education.
- "Rukh Volya" (Movement Freedom) — a list of 28 candidates. It demands the withdrawal of Russian troops and nuclear weapons from the territory of Belarus, and advocates accession to the European Union as a guarantee of the country's peace and sovereignty.
- "Blok belaruskikh palitychnykh znyavolenykh 'Belarusy dzeyannya'" (Bloc of Belarusian Political Prisoners "Belarusians of Action") — a list of 12 candidates under the leadership of Yuri Zenkovich, formed with the participation of political prisoners and their representatives. It sets as its goal the destruction of the system of "hostage-taking," in which political prisoners are used as an instrument of control. It demands the establishment of a system of mutual accountability between the representative and executive structures of the democratic forces.

The platform "TRY SLANY" (Three Elephants) and the application "SVAE," on which, among other things, information about the Coordination Council elections was posted, were also recognized as an "extremist formations."

The list also included structures that position themselves as an alternative to the Coordination Council or openly criticize its work.

- "Belarusian National Coalition" (BNC) — a structure created in November 2025 as an alternative to the Coordination Council by a group of opponents of Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. The organizers positioned it as a "transitional body of strategic governance and representation of the Belarusian people." The KGB recognized it as an "extremist formation" on 7 April 2026, indicating 16 people as involved. Among them is [Nikita Krivtsov](#), who died

under unexplained circumstances during the protest events in August 2020: his body was found in a forest in Minsk. The inclusion of a deceased person in the list of "organizers" of a structure created five years after his death looks absurd.

Human rights and civic organizations

During the period under review, the authorities continued the practice of designating as “extremist formations” organizations involved in legal education, monitoring human rights violations, and providing assistance to vulnerable groups. Their recognition as "extremist" deprives citizens of the lawful possibility of receiving independent legal support.

- "Belarusian Helsinki Committee" (BHC) — one of the oldest and most authoritative human rights organizations in the country, founded in 1995 with the participation of Vasil Bykov, Svetlana Alexievich, and other prominent cultural figures. The organization has for decades been engaged in monitoring human rights violations in Belarus. In 2022 it received consultative status with the UN ECOSOC.
- "InshyYa" / "The Others" — a Belarusian youth organization working in the direction of developing an inclusive and tolerant society, promoting the values of human rights, gender equality, and non-discrimination. It organizes events, runs awareness campaigns, and supports vulnerable groups of the population.
- "Heta Baza" — a Belarusian youth awareness-educational initiative operating since December 2022. It is engaged in the development and implementation of educational campaigns on topical themes (human rights, civil society, and democracy) for a young Belarusian audience.
- "Volnyya" — an initiative to help former political prisoners of Belarus, helping to rebuild life after release.

Independent media

The recognition of media resources as "extremist formations" continues to remain one of the key instruments of information repression, depriving Belarusians of access to independent journalism and creating criminal risks for everyone who interacts with it.

- "Belarusian Investigative Center" — an independent media outlet specializing in investigative journalism: exposing corruption, fact-checking, and refuting disinformation.
- "Novy Chas" — a socio-political media outlet, one of the few Belarusian editions published entirely in the Belarusian language. It devotes significant attention to national cultural and historical themes, to questions of the preservation and development of the Belarusian language.
- "reform.news" (formerly reform.by) — a news resource covering political and human rights events in Belarus, specializing in reports about repression and criminal prosecutions.
- "Belarusian Association of Journalists" (BAJ) — a professional association of journalists, first recognized as an "extremist formation" by a decision of the KGB back in February 2023. Notably, upon its repeat inclusion in the list as an "extremist formation," the notes indicate not the website of BAJ itself, but the Luninets regional edition proinfo.news and its social media pages.

Analytical projects

Projects engaged in the independent analysis of Belarusian politics and society came under attack as well. Their recognition as "extremist" effectively criminalizes the very production and consumption of independent expertise about Belarus.

- "TSNI" / "Tsentri novykh idey" (Center for New Ideas) — an independent analytical center founded in 2012. It conducts research on Belarusian society, media consumption, the political system, and regional development, and organizes educational programs for young Belarusians.
- "CHASIKI TIKAYUT" (The Clock is Ticking) — a YouTube and podcast project in which political analyst Artem Shraibman, economist and researcher Lev Lvovsky, and journalist Yevgenia Sugak reflect on Belarus and Belarusians. The project combines expert analysis with an accessible presentation format oriented toward a wide audience.

Cultural-awareness and publishing initiatives

During the analyzed period, the authorities greatly expanded the process of the "extremization" of structures shaping the modern Belarusian cultural landscape. The publication of books in the Belarusian language, the organization of cultural festivals, and the study of history are now being treated as forms of "extremist activity," effectively criminalizing expressions of independent national identity.

The list included:

- "Belaruskaya Rada kultury" (Belarusian Council of Culture, BRK) together with the associated projects "Magistrat," "Osminog" ("Vasminoh"), "ArtPower Belarus," and the "Foundation of the Council of Culture of Belarus" — a non-profit organization uniting experts, managers, and cultural figures working on the restoration of the ecosystem of Belarusian culture under conditions of repression and forced emigration. It is engaged in supporting cultural initiatives, in the professional development of creators and managers, as well as in providing humanitarian assistance to cultural figures who have suffered from persecution. Notably, this is the second instance of the organization being recognized as an "extremist formation": the Ministry of Internal Affairs first assigned this status to a group of citizens united by the BRK website back on 7 June 2022.
- "FUNDACJA BRAMA DZIEDZICTWA" (Gate of Heritage Foundation) — a Polish foundation registered by Belarusians. According to its statutory goals, it is engaged in the preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of Belarus, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the promotion of Belarusian, Polish, and European history and culture, and support for Belarusian scholars, musicians, and cultural organizations.
- "The Krama Store" — an online store specializing in the sale of books in the Belarusian language, clothing of independent Belarusian projects and designers, merch of Belarusian artists and civic initiatives, handmade jewelry and souvenirs, as well as national symbols.
- "Znivien" — a Belarusian clothing brand founded after 2020. It produces clothing with Belarusian national symbols and motifs of the protests and emigration.

Satirical resources

- "ChinChinChenel" — a satirical project in which the authors, in a comedic and absurd form, mock Belarusian officials and the realities of life in the country. The project was created by former actors of the Kupala Theater, Dmitry Yesenevich and Mikhail Zui — a theater whose entire company left the country in 2020 in protest against the repressions.
- "Diver's Award" is an independent Telegram channel created in support of Ukraine. It primarily publishes satirical poems and caricatures critical of the Russian authorities.

"Extremist organizations"

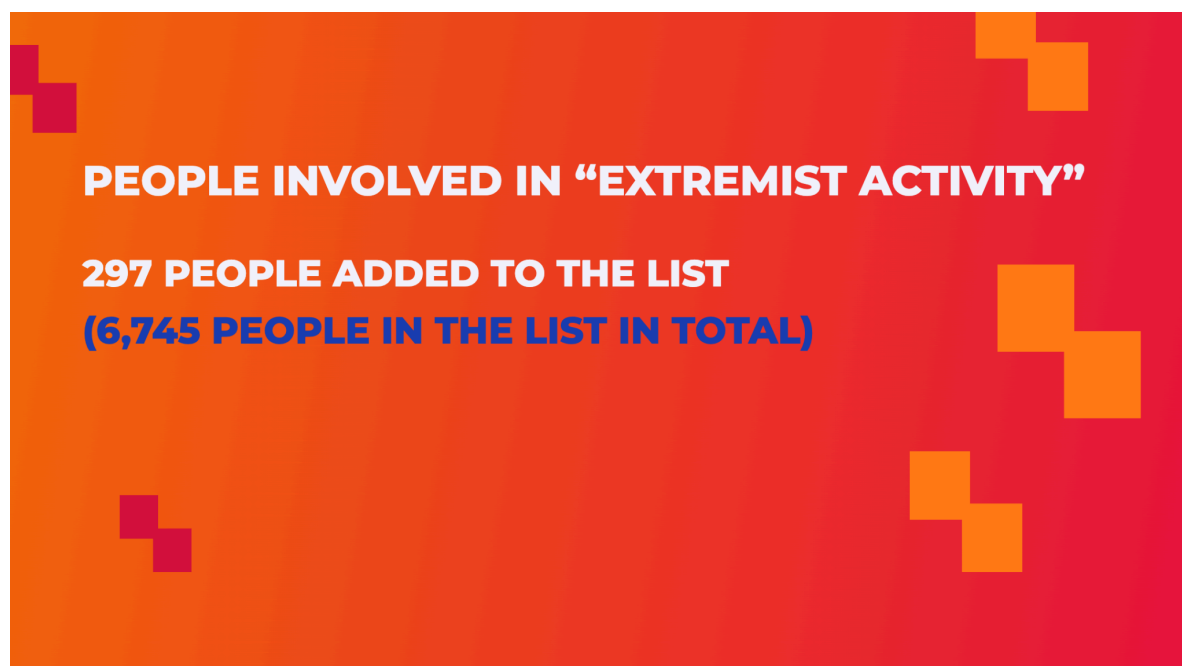
During the period under review, there was an increase in the number of initiatives designated as "extremist organizations" by decisions of the Supreme Court. During the analyzed period, the following ended up on the list:

- European Humanities University (EHU) — one of the leading Belarusian universities in exile, founded in Minsk in 1992 and based in Vilnius since 2005. It provides higher education for Belarusian youth abroad, preserving a Belarusian-language learning environment. Its recognition as an "extremist organization" was the first instance in history of such a status being assigned to an entire university.
- Foundation of the Swedish International Liberal Centre (SILC) — a Swedish liberal foundation founded in the late 1980s by the Liberal People's Party of Sweden. It is engaged in supporting democracy in authoritarian states: it strengthens the position of civic activists, supports independent media and civil society organizations, and promotes the political participation of women and youth. It works in Eastern Europe, North Africa, and Latin America. Cooperation with Belarusian democratic forces and civil society, apparently, was what became the basis for inclusion in the list.

Additionally, in April–June, the list was updated with yet more diaspora organizations (in particular, the "Association of Belarusians in America"), pro-democratic blogs ("Belarusiana"), and anarchist initiatives ("Anarchist Black Cross Belarus"). For unknown reasons, a language school in Poland under the name "LVS. Language School" ended up on the list.

The list was also filled with the information resource "NSOOBE Ostenland," which publishes materials of a neo-Nazi nature — a rare exception among the predominantly politically motivated additions to the list.

Changes in the List of Citizens of the Republic of Belarus, Foreign Citizens and Persons Without Citizenship Involved In Extremist Activities



The List of Citizens of the Republic of Belarus, Foreign Citizens, and Stateless Persons Involved in Extremist Activities was first published on 23 March 2022. Since then, hundreds of individuals whose convictions under so-called “extremist” provisions of the Criminal Code have entered into force have been added to it. As of 1 July 2026, the list contained 6,745 people. A further 297 individuals were added during the preceding three months—the same number as in the previous reporting period. Political prisoners who had been pardoned remained on the list. In addition to Belarusian citizens, three foreign nationals were added during the period under review:

- two Russian citizens: [Airat Khalikov](#), convicted in the “Hajun case,” and [Roman Sharkov](#), convicted of “incitement to hostility,” “calls for actions aimed at harming national security,” and “assistance to extremist activity” under Articles 130, 361, and 361-4 of the Criminal Code;
- one Ukrainian citizen, [Alexander Kovalenko](#), who was reportedly also convicted in connection with the “Hajun case.”

During the period under review, the largest number of individuals added to the list had been convicted under the following provision of the Criminal Code:

- Article 361-4, “assistance to extremist activity” — 227 people.
- Article 368 of the Criminal Code “insulting Lukashenko” — 49 people;
- Article 130 of the Criminal Code “incitement to hostility” — 38 people;
- Article 369 of the Criminal Code “insulting a representative of the authorities” — 31 people;

- Article 361-1 of the Criminal Code "participation in an extremist formation" — 26 people;
- Article 361 of the Criminal Code "calls to harm national security" — 26 people;
- Article 367 of the Criminal Code "slander against Lukashenko" — 17 people;
- Article 369-1 of the Criminal Code "discrediting the Republic of Belarus" — 16 people;
- Article 342 of the Criminal Code "participation in actions grossly violating public order" — 10 people;
- Article 356 of the Criminal Code "treason to the state" — 8 people.

These statistics suggest that large-scale prosecutions under Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code are continuing, likely in connection with the “Belaruski Hajun” case, and that this provision currently serves as one of the principal legal instruments of mass repression. There has also been a marked increase in convictions under provisions commonly used to prosecute comments critical of the authorities and their representatives. This indicates the continued widespread prosecution of individuals for criticism of the authorities, as well as the frequent use of multiple Criminal Code provisions within a single set of charges.

People convicted in absentia also continue to be included on the list; the list included:

- former director of the Republican Center for Olympic Preparation in Freestyle [Vadim Krivosheyev](#), convicted to 12 years' imprisonment for cooperation with the "Belarusian Sport Solidarity Foundation" and the "People's Anti-Crisis Management";
- [Elena Zhilochkina](#), who was sentenced to 10 years in a penal colony, as well as Zarina Sorokina, Timofey Malakhovsky, and Oleg Davydchik, sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in the "Honest People" case;
- political scientist Dmitry Bolkunets, convicted under 11 articles of the Criminal Code for analytical materials;
- [Stanislav Prigodich](#), sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment under articles of the Criminal Code, probably for critical comments.

Increasingly, multiple members of the same family are being added to the list. During the period under review, the following family members were included:

- Dmitry and Olga Kapuza, [sentenced to 24 and 21 years'](#) imprisonment respectively in the case of "saboteurs and agents of the Ukrainian special services in Belarus";
- journalist Tina Polynskaya and her elder daughter Margarita Rabinovich, sentenced to two years' imprisonment for alleged cooperation with the "Belarusian Analytical Workshop."

The Ministry of Internal Affairs continues to enter into the list people "released from liability due to the expiration of the periods for prosecution" — during the analyzed period, Sergei Shpak and Andrei Bakurenko, convicted under Article 361 of the Criminal Code, were included in the list.

Changes in the List of Organizations and Private Persons Involved In Terrorist Activities



The grounds for inclusion on the “terrorist” list are broadly similar to those applicable to the List of Citizens of the Republic of Belarus, Foreign Citizens, and Stateless Persons Involved in Extremist Activities. However, a person may be added to the “terrorist” list solely on the basis of criminal charges, without a final court judgment. Individuals included on the list are, in practice, subject to severe restrictions on financial transactions. Until 2020, entries were based exclusively on sanctions lists adopted by the UN Security Council. Since then, however, the list has been populated almost entirely by individuals prosecuted or convicted in politically motivated cases.

As of 1 July 2026, 1,458 people are included on the list, including 714 citizens of Belarus, as well as 6 citizens of Ukraine, 4 citizens of the Russian Federation, 1 citizen of Latvia, 1 citizen of Lithuania, 1 citizen of Estonia, and 1 citizen of Germany, who ended up on the list because of their position against the Belarusian regime (it should be noted that Nikolai Shvets, convicted in the "Machulishchy case," has two citizenships: Ukrainian and Russian). Over three months, the list was filled with 46 citizens of Belarus, included in the list on the basis of the political decisions of the Belarusian KGB. Despite the pardons, most of the political prisoners previously added to the list are not removed from it.

In addition to individuals connected to Belarus, the list also included several foreign nationals added on the basis of UN Security Council sanctions. These included four individuals linked to Sudan’s Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which is fighting the Sudanese Armed Forces in the country’s civil war and has been accused of serious violations of international humanitarian law: one Sudanese national identified as the RSF’s director of supply, and three Colombian nationals — Álvaro Andrés Quijano Becerra, Claudia Viviana Oliveros Forero, and Mateo Andrés Duque Botero — associated with a company allegedly used to finance the group. Two Iraqi nationals linked to ISIL (Da’esh), Sami Jasim Muhammad Jaata Al-Jaburi and Abd El Hamid Salim Ibrahim Brukan

Al-Hartuni, were also added to the list. Alongside individuals whose activities may pose a genuine threat to international security, the Belarusian authorities continue to include representatives of the Belarusian opposition and civil society. As in previous periods, most individuals added to the list by decision of the KGB are accused of conduct that appears to bear no substantive connection to terrorist activity.

During the period under review, only three individuals were added to the list on the basis of convictions for planning acts of direct resistance against the Belarusian authorities, as well as for other forms of resistance to Belarus's involvement in Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The authorities classified these acts as "acts of terrorism" under Article 289 of the Criminal Code. Those added included Denis Prokhorov and Vadim Kabanchuk, the former commander and former deputy commander of the Kalinowski Regiment, as well as Sergei Stasenکو, who was reportedly convicted in connection with the "rail partisans" case. A further six individuals were added on the basis of convictions under Article 290-5 of the Criminal Code ("Organization of the activities of a terrorist organization and participation in the activities of such an organization"), and two under Article 290-2 ("Assistance to terrorist activity"). All of them were also linked to the Kalinowski Regiment. In addition, Nadezhda Sychugova and Alexander Chernyakovich, whose prosecution had not previously been known to human rights defenders, were added to the list solely on the basis of charges under Article 289-1 of the Criminal Code ("Propaganda of terrorism") and Article 290-1 ("Financing of terrorist activities"), respectively.

The remaining individuals were added to the list in connection with charges or convictions relating to online comments, criticism of the authorities in the course of civic or activist activity, or participation in protests. These included 25 people prosecuted under Article 130 of the Criminal Code ("incitement to hostility"), 22 under Article 361 ("calls for actions aimed at harming national security"), and two under Article 293 ("mass riots"). Notably, four members of the group "Russian Orthodox Church — Tsarist Empire" — Anna Stryukova, Galina Frolova, Olga Baikovskaya, and Olga Voshchenko — were also added to the list, despite their alleged activities appearing to have no substantive connection to terrorism.

Elderly people continue to end up in the "list of terrorists": 66-year-old Olga Stroyeva, 65-year-old Yuri Ochkas, 62-year-old Alexander Rudchik, and 65-year-old Sergei Stasenکو. People convicted in absentia continue to be included in the list: Dmitry Banit, Maxim Shabutsky, and others.

Propaganda work on combating "extremism" and other anti-extremist measures

In Belarus, the systematic organization of state propaganda events continues, during which government ideologists present pupils, students, and workplace collectives with the authorities' official positions on security and the prevention of "extremism."

On 8 April 2026, the prosecutor of the Ivatsevichi district Alexander Khomich [held a meeting with the population](#) in the assembly hall of the Kossovo Puslowski Palace, devoted to "countering extremism." As the local district newspaper wrote, "Alexander Khomich competently and in simple language spoke about all the possible manifestations of this phenomenon (extremism), and also explained how not to fall for the informational tricks of destructive internet resources." Later, in the context of this event, one Threads user stated that he had ["received a response from the prosecutor."](#) who, in his impression, stated "that it is permitted to shit on the "zmagary" (derogatory term for protesters) under their posts, and you will face nothing for it." The prosecutor's alleged statements

look especially cynical against the backdrop of the systematic criminal prosecution of people for "insults" and "incitement to hostility" directed at supporters of the authorities, which serves as yet another confirmation that the "anti-extremist" legislation is [applied exclusively against the regime's opponents](#).

In April 2026, similar events on the "prevention of extremism" [took place](#) in educational institutions across the country — in Molodechno, Bobruisk, Lyuban, Postavy, Berestovitsa, Kobrin, Minsk, Cherkov, and [Grodno](#).

The propaganda of "combating extremism" affects minors as well.

- In April 2026, the prosecutor's office of the Mostovsky district [held a special seminar](#) for deputy head teachers and class supervisors on identifying "extremism" among minors. Assistant prosecutor Anastasia Baltsevich explained to the educators how to recognize a "young offender": the main signs, according to her, are badges and keychains on backpacks, as well as "improper" avatars and nicknames in chats. As the causes of adolescents' gravitation toward "extremism," the prosecutor named "a sense of social injustice" and "a lack of support at home."
- On 23 May 2026, it was reported that Belarusian schools would introduce [a new informational session](#) for pupils in grades 3–6 focusing on the basic principles of law. The program was prepared by the National Center for Legislation and Legal Information, and the Ministry of Education officially recommended that educators use it in their upbringing work. The lessons are built around the state children's legal portal mir.pravo.by: pupils will be shown how to use it, everyday situations will be analyzed, and rights, obligations, and legal liability will be explained through games, puzzles, and video clips. Judging by the content of the portal itself, among the themes with which children are to be acquainted is, among other things, the legislation on "extremism" and liability for participation in unauthorized mass events.