

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

### **Summary Saturday-Monday, 10-12 October:**

2 men were released after Lukashenka's meeting with a group of political prisoners in the KGB jail in the afternoon of October 10. Yury Vaskrasenski, a member of Viktor Babaryka's campaign team, and Dzmitry Rabtsevich, director of the PandaDoc office in Minsk, walked free to await trial under an obligation not to leave the country.<sup>1</sup>

Currently, Human Rights defenders recognized 95 people as political prisoners in Belarus.

Peaceful protests against the presidential election results continued on Sunday, October 11. More than 600 people were detained in Minsk and other cities of Belarus. Most of them were arrested in Minsk during the violent dispersal of a peaceful protest gathering in central Minsk.

Water cannons and non-lethal weapons were used to disperse peaceful protesters. Several people were reportedly injured after riot police used stun grenades and fired rubber bullets without any advance warning. Many protesters were brutally beaten despite not resisting arrest.<sup>2</sup>

At least 40 journalists and not less than 7 well-known activists<sup>3</sup> were detained in Belarus.<sup>4</sup> The police detained journalists and the majority of activists even before the protesters gathered in the streets.<sup>5</sup>

Since the elections on August 9, 277 detentions of journalists have been reported by BAJ. 8 journalists are still in prison.<sup>6 7</sup>

### **Right to defence**

Aliaksandr Pylchanka, advocate of the arrested opposition leaders Viktor Babaryka and Maryia Kalesnikava, may lose his license as a result of a hearing at the Ministry of Justice scheduled for October 15.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://spring96.org/en/news/99917>

<sup>2</sup> [https://news.tut.by/society/703631.html#ua:main\\_news~8](https://news.tut.by/society/703631.html#ua:main_news~8)

<sup>3</sup> **Svetlana Gatalskaya, Olga Shparaga, Julia Mitskevich, Evgeniya Dolgaya, Anora Langar, Vladimir Kovalkin, Ivan Remzovsky**

<sup>4</sup> <http://spring96.org/ru/news/99907>

<sup>5</sup> <https://baj.by/en/content/police-detains-least-40-journalists-october-11-list>

<sup>6</sup> <https://baj.by/be/analytics/represii-suprac-zhurnalistau-u-belarusi-u-2020-godze-tablica-abnaulyaecca>

<sup>7</sup> <https://europeanjournalists.org/blog/2020/10/11/belarus-at-least-40-journalists-detained-on-sunday/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://news.tut.by/economics/703558.html>

## Digital Rights

On October 11, mobile companies "in accordance with the order of the authorized state bodies" reduced the bandwidth of the mobile Internet from 2pm-6.30pm. Fulfillment of this requirement led to a significant deterioration in the quality of data transmission service and/or temporary unavailability of the service.<sup>9</sup>

On October 9, 6 out of 19 participants of telegram chat for "*the administrators of regional chat rooms*" were detained in Grodno. They are suspects under Art. 342 of Criminal Code "Organization and preparation of actions that grossly violate public order, or active participation in them". Detainees face up to three years in prison.<sup>10</sup>

## Good News

Belarusian Advocates in all legal and creative ways continue to support their colleague, Maxim Znak, who's already been one month in detention. Under the name of the Vocal and Instrumental Ensemble "Legal Default" they produced a song.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://42.tut.by/703614>

<sup>10</sup><https://udf.by/news/society/219448-v-grodno-nachali-zaderzhivat-administratorov-rajonnyh-chatov-v-telegram-im-grozit-ugolovnaja-statja.html>