

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 Wednesday, August 19:**

According to the official information - 44 administratively arrested persons remain in the detention centers.

State authorities officially recognized the deaths of 3 persons during the protests against the results of the presidential elections.<sup>1</sup>

The human rights organization "Viasna" confirms the information about more than 60 suspected persons for criminal cases that were initiated after arrests at protest actions in different cities of Belarus.

Workers' strikes continue throughout the country.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Today we want to briefly present how things stand in terms of the administrative court procedures that are being held in Belarus.***

According to ICCPR (art.14) “ All persons shall be equal before the courts and tribunals. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, or of his rights and obligations in a suit at law, everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law”. The National Legislation (Article 11 of the Code of the Republic of Belarus on the Judiciary and the Status of the Court) also enshrines the principle of publicity in the administration of justice.

However, in the period from the 10th to 12th of August 2020, the district courts of Minsk and the Minsk region (Zhodino, Smolevichi, Borisov, etc.), Grodno, Baranovichi, Drogichin, Mogilev, Brest, Pruzhany and in other cities, cases of administrative violation for participation in peaceful assemblies were taken up at field sessions in the buildings of temporary detention centers, the center for isolation of lawbreakers, pretrial detention facilities, prisons (hereinafter - isolation wards). The court hearings were actually held behind closed doors.

In the court buildings, only information about the hearings, the names of the judges, and the address of the detention centers were provided. It was impossible to get to the court hearings inside the detention centers due to “the regime object” status, lawyers were not allowed as well and information about the results of the court hearings on the day of the trial was not provided.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://spring96.org/be/news/99130>

<sup>2</sup> <http://spring96.org/ru/news/99140>

Following the results of the court hearings, many detainees got a long standing penal of administrative arrest without a real opportunity to appeal the decisions (the detainees are not given paper pens, there is no way to pay the fee and to take legal advice).

The non-admission of defenders to the territory of isolation wards with intent to participate in court hearings is a direct violation of the right to the defense provided for by national legislation, as well as international obligations of the Republic of Belarus.