

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 Monday, August 24:

840 residents of Gomel have signed a petition to the district police department to institute criminal proceedings against the militia under article 128 of the Criminal Code (crimes against the peace and security of mankind).¹

The Presidential candidate, Andrei Dmitriev, has filed a complaint to the Supreme Court of Belarus about the “results” of the presidential elections, as issued by the Central Election Committee. Earlier, the complaint was filed by Svetlana Tikhanovskaya and Anna Konapatskaya. The main question will be if the Supreme Court considers this complaint. Based on the Electoral Code, the Supreme Court is not explicitly authorised to consider election results appeals. However according to the Constitution everyone has the right to a court appeal.

Meanwhile, politically motivated detentions continue:

Members of the Coordinating Council Olga Kovalkova and Sergei Dylevsky were detained by the riot police at the entrance to the Minsk Tractor Works. The official reason for their detention is an unauthorized mass event and violation of mass order. A few minutes before the arrival of the riot police, Kovalkova and Dylevsky came to support the workers on strike.

Nobel laureate Svetlana Aleksievich and ex-director of the Kupala Theater Pavel Latushko, who are members of the Presidium of the Coordination Council², were called in for questioning by the State Investigative Committee³.

The co-chairman of the Belaruskali strike committee, Anatoly Bokan, has been detained and fined⁴ for participating in an unauthorized mass event. After the trial, he was released.⁵

The chairman of the strike committee of the Minsk Wheel Tractor Plant, Alexander Lavrinovich was detained.⁶

¹ <https://nn.by/?c=ar&i=257786>

² On August 14, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who is currently in Lithuania, initiated the creation of a Coordination Council for the transfer of power in Belarus.

³ <https://news.tut.by/economics/697925.html>

⁴ Sum of the fine 675 BYN (225 EUR)

⁵ <https://t.me/viasna96>

⁶ <https://news.tut.by/economics/697923.html>

Evgeniy Merkis, the journalist detained on Friday in Gomel, was sentenced to 5 days of arrest. He spent the weekend in a detention center. He was charged with “violation of the rules of holding a mass event”- apparently by being actively involved in pickets.

New criminal cases are being initiated

Today, a criminal case has been initiated against a resident of Gomel, who removed the state flag from the flagpole on Lenin Square and replaced it with a white-red-white one.⁷

According to the officially published information of the Investigative Committee, “Minsk investigators continue to clarify the circumstances of illegal actions during the period of mass riots” (meaning during the period of peaceful protests).

The Investigative Committee published⁸ the story of the arrest of a young man, who’s car was stopped. The young man explained: *“in one of the telegram channels I saw a publication with a recipe for a Molotov cocktail. For unclear reasons I decided to prepare components for the Molotov cocktail to pass on to the protesters. However, after that I changed my mind about doing it and went home with my mother, and was afraid to throw out the items in the city.”* On this ground, a criminal case was initiated under Part 2 of Art. 295-3 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus “Illegal actions in relation to firearms, ammunition and explosives”. A preventive measure in the form of taking into custody was applied to the young man.

Educational system

Lukashenko said that those who do not support the state ideology should not teach at schools. And he ordered to fire everyone who doesn’t agree with him.⁹

Today, Inna Borisenko, a teacher, was convicted in Gomel. She had earlier been detained by her house while taking out the garbage. Inna refused to plead guilty and got a fine of 702 BLR (276 USD) which has to be paid within forty days.

The gymnasium #43 in Minsk has cancelled the regular parents’ meeting at the beginning of the school year due to an emotionally charged atmosphere and outrage expressed by parents over the falsified presidential elections. Some parents are demanding the dismissal of the teachers who signed false protocols.

A strike is developing at the Faculty of Law of the Belarusian State University. “People are going to the Dean to explain that since the law is dead, there is no need to study.

⁷ https://interfax.by/news/policy/vnutrennyaya_politika/1281750/

⁸ Published on on August 22, 2020

⁹ https://interfax.by/news/policy/vnutrennyaya_politika/1281705/

Detention of foreign citizens

On 23 August, 2020, Mikhail Dorozhkin, a Russian citizen, was released from the detention center in Minsk. His family couldn't find him for over a week. On 16 August, 2020 Human Constanta informed Russian consulate about his detention and obtained information from one of released cellmates that Mikhail is alive and he was given 7 days of arrest. In fact, Mikhail spent 14 days in the detention center and after release he got a decision on deportation and a ban on entry to Belarus for five years.

The Russian consul in Belarus visited four detention centers, traveled to Zhodino detention center - and everywhere he was told that Dorozhkin was not there. The consul was allowed to visit Mikhail only on 20 August, 2020.

Failure to provide information to representatives of the Russian consulate after an official request is a violation of the legislation of Belarus and diplomatic protocol.

From today we decided to add to each newsletter some positive news.

Musicians from ten different countries have released an [album](#) in support of Belarusians who have suffered during the suppression of protests against Lukashenko.