

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 Tuesday, August 25:

Olga Kovalkova, a member of the Coordination Council, who was detained yesterday, will spend 10 days at Akrescina Street. Sergei Dylevsky, a representative of the MTZ strike committee, who was also detained yesterday, will also be held in custody for 10 days.

Thirty-nine protesters faced administrative charges following yesterday's protests in a number of Belarusian cities, the Interior Ministry's spokesperson said.¹ Three criminal cases were opened to investigate alleged violence against police officers.² The pro democracy peaceful protests go on in Belarus for more than 2 weeks now.

500 workers at the Vitebsk department of Belarusian Railway signed a joint petition to the regional and city authorities. They demand the resignation of Lukashenko and Yarmoshyna and recognition that the declared result of the Presidential elections is illegitimate.

Rule of law (or its absence)

The Supreme Court of Belarus refused to initiate proceedings on the complaint of Tikhanovskaya, as well as ex-presidential candidates Dmitriev and Kanopatskaya about invalidations of the election results.

State bodies cannot demand revision of the elections, since this situation is not foreseen by the Constitution, according to the chairman of the Constitutional Court of Belarus, Petr Miklashevich. He stated that the demand of the Constitutional Council to review the election results is, therefore "unconstitutional."³

Tortures

The Viasna Human Rights Center, the Belarusian Helsinki Committee, the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) asked the UN Special Rapporteur to intervene in Belarus. Belarusian and international human rights lawyers and activists call for the UN Special Rapporteur to investigate all reports of torture in Belarus.

This group is aware that at least 450 people have been brutally beaten during the protests in the country, but not a single criminal case against those responsible have been commenced.

¹ <https://mvd.gov.by/ru/news/7383>

² <https://www.belta.by/incident/view/mvd-vozbuzhdno-tri-ugolovnyh-dela-za-nasilie-libo-ugrozu-v-otnoshenii-sotrudnikov-ovd-404093-2020/>

³ <https://tass.ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/9286541>

Human rights activists remind that more than 6 thousand people were detained and were imprisoned for up to 10 days in terrible conditions. The Investigative Committee has not opened a single criminal case.

At least two more initiatives are working with tortures in Belarus: Belarussian Association of Journalists towards journalists and International Committee on Tortures' Investigations towards participants of peaceful protests that is a joint initiative of different belarus and international human rights organisations.

Social and cultural rights

For the last two weeks, including today⁴, employees of the Academy of Sciences have been taking part in the Solidarity actions. Yesterday, the Academy directors received a verbal order from the chairman of the presidium to dismiss anyone who attends any more protests.

An advertising workers' peaceful protest took place today. The workers of the museum had previously organized solidarity actions, in particular against the violence used by the security forces against civilians.

Several hundred teachers and Belarusians supporting them have gathered near the Ministry of Education building in Minsk. Teachers protested against Lukashenko's demand to fire those who disagree with the state ideology from schools.⁵

Good News

Today Belarus celebrates its independence from Soviet Union. Sound on: People are singing "Pahonia", a well known Belarusian song.

⁴ <https://t.me/mbkhmedia/24135>

⁵ https://rebenok.by/articles/stature/difficulty/28188-uchitelya-vyshla-na-protest-.html#ua:news_society~6