

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 27:**

Over 260 people, including 50 journalists, were detained.<sup>1</sup> Detentions and arrests reach the point of absurdity: Natalya Klimovich was detained in Brest for a white-red-white dress. Now Klimovich is in jail awaiting trial.<sup>2</sup>

Human rights defender Mikhail Matskevich was detained. No information is available about his location.

Nothing is still known about the location of Sergei Dylevsky, the detained leader of the Minsk Tractor Works strike committee. The lawyer could not get through to visit Sergey Dylevsky and is not even able to locate the jail where his defendant is being held. The lawyer intends to file a complaint with the prosecutor about opposition to the provision of legal aid.

The Investigative Committee claims that no complaints of rape from either men or women have been received by the committee. It is also alleged that investigators have received no information on rectal injuries in men and injuries to female reproductive organs. Earlier, doctors at the hospitals to which those beaten at pre-trial detention centers had been brought reported clear signs of sexual abuse of some victims.<sup>3</sup>

### **Freedom of speech**

More than 50 journalists, including foreign journalists, were detained in Minsk and other towns on 27 Aug 2020.<sup>4</sup> One of the detainees was a citizen of Sweden. The Ambassador of Sweden to Belarus Kristina Johannesson arrived at the Oktyabrsky District Department of Internal Affairs. Paul Hansen was later released. He is banned from entering the country for 5 years.

In relation to some of the journalists, protocols were drawn up under Article 23.34 of the Administrative Code (violation of the procedure for organizing or holding mass events). They were moved to the Center for Isolation of Offenders at Akrestino. Majority of the journalists were released in the evening.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.tut.by/society/698388.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://news.tut.by/society/698241.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.tut.by/society/698217.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://news.tut.by/society/698388.html>

The Ministry of Internal Affairs said that the journalists were not detained, but taken to the Minsk police department Oktyabrskoye to have their documents checked.<sup>5</sup>

Searches in editorial offices of Kyky.org and The Village Belarus took place in Minsk. The searches were conducted by the Financial Investigation Department.

### **Foreigners and deportation**

RIA Novosti informed with the reference to the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs that the passports of Russian journalists, which have been stamped with a five-year ban on entry to Belarus, have been spoiled by Belarusian authorities.<sup>6</sup>

According to the law of Belarus in case of deportation or expulsion of a foreigner, a corresponding stamp shall be put in his national passport. At the same time, the law of the Russian Federation prescribes that it is prohibited to enter information, stamps and marks in the passport that are not provided for by legislation. In case of extraneous stamps, the passport is invalid. The provisions of Russian legislation are in line with generally accepted practice, according to which stamps and marks in national passports are affixed only by the state authorities of the country that issued the passport.

Thus, putting stamps on ban to enter Belarus in the passports of foreigners by the Belarusian authorities can lead to problems not only for Russians, but also for citizens of other countries. Moreover, the expediency of such a practice is not clear, since Belarus has unified systems of internal affairs bodies and border services. With the help of such systems it is possible to track the decision on expulsion or deportation of a foreigner, as well as the established period of a ban on entry to Belarus.

### **Rights to work and fair condition of employment**

The founding father of cardiology in Belarus, Professor Aleksandr Mrochek, has been fired today because the employees of the center he chaired have been actively supporting the protests from the very beginning. The decision was announced today at a special meeting of the acting Minister of Health, Dmitry Pinevich, with the employees of the center. The staff greeted Professor Mrochek with applause which didn't stop for several minutes.

### **Humanitarian help**

The Polish truck with humanitarian aid organized by NSZZ "Solidarność", began the procedure of returning to the territory of the Republic of Poland, after 20 hours of standing at

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<sup>5</sup> <https://tass.com/emergencies/1194607>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ria.ru/20200826/pasporta-1576311750.html>

the border and repressions against a driver carrying 20 tons of cargo - mainly food - for striking opposition activists.

PolsatNews also informs that according to Piotr Duda, the Chairman of the National Committee of NSZZ "Solidarność": "Around one or two in the morning the driver was arrested, the Belarusian KGB came, he was handcuffed and interrogated. In the morning he was released. All kinds of pretexts are being sought that this document is missing, or another".<sup>7</sup>

## **Sport and human rights**

On the eve of the elections, the football championship games were canceled to prevent people from gathering at the stadiums. Even all amateur leagues in Minsk.

The leaders and representatives of the sports authorities (ministries, federations, clubs) informed the athlete about "whom to vote for". The Ministry of Sport, individual federations and clubs continue to ignore violations and abuses of power, violence from the State. They continue to put pressure on representatives of the sports industry, who do not stand aside from what is happening, condemn violence and lawlessness, express support for those who have suffered and want change.

An [open Letter](#) has appeared, which has already been signed by more than 350 athletes and industry workers with demands to the authorities. In their personal capacity, individual athletes, footballers and even football clubs express solidarity and try to support people. An example of the self-organization of a large number of representatives of the country's sports industry - athletes, leaders, journalists and sports marketers, as well as all active sports fans under the name "Sports in a Country without Violence" has emerged. Some athletes publicly refuse to play for the national teams.

For coverage of events in the industry and expression of solidarity, the popular sports media resource by.tribuna.com was included in the list of resources to which access was limited in Belarus by the Ministry of Information.

## **Good news**

Creativity is the power, have a look on [Belarusian song](#) protest.

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<sup>7</sup><https://www.polsatnews.pl/wiadomosc/2020-08-27/ciezarowka-z-pomoca-humanitarna-nie-zostala-wpu-szczona-na-bialorus-wraca-do-polski/>