

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 31:

Not a single criminal case has been opened against police who brutally tortured hundreds of peaceful protesters.¹ Yet, dozens of criminal cases have been launched against the peaceful protesters. The Investigative Committee opened new criminal cases on the facts of pressure on the deputy corps and 50 cases for threats to deputies and officials.²

Liliya Ulasava, a famous mediator and a member of the presidium of the Coordination Council, has been arrested by officers of the Department for Financial Investigation.³

Vasily Polyakov, a member of the Gomel branch of the Coordination Council, was detained in Gomel.⁴

Fair working conditions and labour unions

Detentions and dismissals of strike leaders and government officials who openly opposed the use of violence, continue. Svetlana Volchek, the Belarusian State University professor, has been sentenced to 15 days in prison for coordinating the university's strike committee. Her husband has got the same sentence.⁵ The editor-in-chief of "Komsomolskaya Pravda in Belarus" was replaced by a person from Russia. The Belarusian State University of Culture Rector, Alina Korbun, has been fired. The Belaruskali strike committee reports that co-chairman of Belaruskali Anatoly Bokun has been detained by KGB officers⁶

Freedom of religion

Last week, we saw the unification of believers in the peaceful protests to oppose tortures and illegal actions against civilians from the state.

¹ <https://svabod1.azureedge.net/a/30812777.html>

² <https://news.tut.by/society/698606.htm>

³ <https://news.tut.by/society/698604.html>

⁴ <https://tass.ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/9334711>

⁵ <https://news.tut.by/society/698604.html>

⁶ <https://t.me/stachkom/180>

On August 25, the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Moscow decided to dismiss Metropolitan Pavel, the Patriarchal Exarch in Minsk, and to appoint the Bishop of Borisov and Maryina Horka Veniamin as a new exarch of Belarus Orthodox church.

Belarusian authorities have barred Chief of Belarusian Catholic church Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz from entering the country without explanation, despite him being a citizen of Belarus, a day after the head of the Catholic Church in Belarus warned the nation's political crisis could lead to civil war.⁷

In a [statement](#) published August 27, Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz demanded an investigation into reports that police blocked the doors of the Catholic Church of Saints Simon and Helena August 26. Dozens of protesters sought refuge in the church on Wednesday as police dispersed crowds in the square, arresting around 50 demonstrators. The authorities reportedly blocked the church doors for around 40 minutes.

“In accordance with the constitution of the Republic of Belarus, people have the right to pray by freely entering and leaving the church without hindrance. Blocking the exits of the shrine and creating obstacles to the free entry and exit of people is a gross violation of the rights of believers and freedom of religion,” he said.⁸

Politically motivated detentions & excessive use of force\ Sport and Human Rights

Many sportsmen openly express their position regarding election results and the use of force by the state. The Football Federation of Belarus issued a caution⁹ to the FC Krumbachy Minsk who came to the last match wearing T-shirts with a caption “We are with the people” in Belarusian.

Today 2 football players of FC Krumbachy Minsk, Syarhey Kazeka and Pavel Rassolko, were detained in Minsk and taken to the local police station. Syarhey Kazeka was taken to the hospital directly from the police station, still handcuffed. He was diagnosed with kidney damage and a fracture of the third vertebra.¹⁰

Good news

Belarusian are creative - one of the examples of peaceful [Art protest](#)

⁷ <https://svabod1.azureedge.net/a/30813036.html>

⁸ <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/catholic-archbishop-calls-for-investigation-after-riot-police-block-church-entrance-in-belarus-27091>

⁹ <http://pressball.by/news/football/365650>

¹⁰ https://sport.tut.by/news/football/698764.html?f&fbclid=IwAR3pWCE5c8jLR8istXTHhwLgG_oEVNMVLtaLsDNNX3c8zLGbf7_waUoV8Jw