

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 Saturday-Monday, 24-26 October:

Peaceful protests continue for 78 days. On October 24, the Women's March was held in Minsk. **16 people** were detained at the women's March. ²

On October 25, the protest March in support of the ultimatum³ took place in Belarus, around 200 thousand people participated in Minsk and regions. The Minsk protest was the biggest demonstration in weeks. Peaceful protesters were again met with excessive violence on the part of the police, who indiscriminately used rubber bullets into a peaceful crowd at short range and stun grenades to disperse unarmed people. At least 2 persons were reportedly injured as a result of direct use of non-lethal weapons.

Riot police forced an entrance into a private apartment and beat people inside it. Law enforcement officers have completely abandoned their oath to protect fellow citizens and have been given free rein to use indiscriminate violence and mass arbitrary arrests against people.⁴

Similar protests were held in Brest, Viciebsk, Lida, Hrodna, Navapolack and other cities. In Lida, police used tear gas. In Hrodna and Navapolack, the police used unmotivated violence to detain dozens of protesters. According to the Interior Ministry, **532 people** were detained across the country.⁵

National strike and labour rights

On October 25, opposition leader Svyatlana Tsikhanouskaya called on Belarusians to start a nationwide strike. The major demands are Lukashenka's resignation and the release of political prisoners.⁶ On October 26, workers of a number of state-owned enterprises in Minsk and Hrodna joined the strike; lots of Belarusian students from Minsk State Linguistic

¹ <https://reform.by/174122-v-minske-prohodit-gordyj-zhenskij-marsh>

² <http://spring96.org/be/news/100102>

³ On October 13, Tsikhanouskaya's team published the text of People's Ultimatum they were issuing to Lukashenka and Belarusian officials. They strongly urged to fulfil the following demands in the near future: Lukashenka's announcing his resignation; putting an end to police violence in the streets; releasing all political prisoners. According to the opposition, if they have not been met at 23.59 on October 25 at the latest, the entire country 'will take to the streets to peacefully deliver People's Ultimatum; on October 26, all enterprises will start striking'.

⁴ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/10/belarus-amid-vicious-crackdown-on-peaceful-protesters-authorities-arrest-workers-planning-strike/>

⁵ <https://t.me/pressmvd/2292>

⁶ <https://www.rferl.org/a/tsikhanouskaya-calls-for-national-strike-to-go-ahead-in-belarus-after-crackdown-on-protesters/30912605.html>

University, Belarusian National Technical University, Belarusian State University, Belarusian State Medical University, Belarusian State Pedagogical University and others supported the striking workers and employees.⁷⁸

Many shops and cafes were closed, with their owners and employees forming human chains in the capital. Strikes also targeted large plants in Minsk and other cities, including national oil company Belarusneft, the world's largest producer of potash Belaruskali, and the MAZ truck-manufacturing plant.

According to Alyaksandr Yaroshuk, leader of the Belarusian Congress of Democratic Unions, the authorities responded by detaining protesters in the streets and outside factories, and threatening workers with jail or being fired if they went on strike.⁹ On October 26 at least **347 people** were detained in connection with their participation in protest actions and strikes in Minsk and regions.¹⁰

Internet shutdown

On October 25, the Mobile Internet was turned off again. Problems with the network connection were observed from about 12:00 to 18:40. Mobile operators (MTS, A1 and life) explained the necessity of the blocking of mobile internet: "due the request of state bodies in order to ensure national security."¹¹

Other news

Journalists, human rights defenders and volunteers united efforts to collect and publish stories of victims - <https://august2020.info/ru>

⁷ <https://belsat.eu/en/news/belarusian-students-show-support-for-striking-workers/>

⁸ <https://belsat.eu/en/news/first-day-of-nationwide-strike-in-belarus/>

⁹ <https://www.rferl.org/a/tsikhanouskaya-calls-for-national-strike-to-go-ahead-in-belarus-after-crackdown-on-protesters/30912605.html>

¹⁰ <https://naviny.by/new/20201027/1603771529-pravozashchitniki-26-oktyabrya-v-belarusi-zaderzhano-pochti-350-chelovek>

¹¹ <https://42.tut.by/705309>