

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-Monday, 3-9 November:

For more than three months, people in Belarus have been protesting the contested August 9 presidential election results and police brutality that followed.

On November 8, authorities used a familiar set of tools against protesters in Minsk.¹ Internet service providers notified their users that internet access would be restricted, as ordered by the government.² Plain-clothed law enforcement officers chased and brutally detained protesters while armed personnel carriers and water cannons were deployed in the city center.³ ⁴Several dozen protestors received injuries, as a result, and had to seek medical help. Non-lethal weapons were again used, and at least one person was reportedly wounded by a rubber bullet.

1,053 people were detained in connection with the November 8 rally, most of them in Minsk. At least 9 journalists were detained while reporting. Dozens detained were forced to face the wall with their hands raised in the air for over nine hours in the inner courtyard of Savetski district police department of Minsk.⁵

On November 7, at least 14 people were detained at the women's march in Minsk.⁶

On November 5, several hundred people with disabilities participated in the 4th protest march of people with disabilities against election results. At the end of the event, two women and two journalists were detained.⁷

The Prosecutor General's Office reported on the criminal cases sent to the court related to "riots, participation of citizens in unauthorized events, resistance, violence and the threat of its use against security officials, as well as compensation for damage caused to state property by

¹<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/11/09/crackdown-peaceful-protesters-escalates-belarus?fbclid=IwAR1paM5ePm6h3yUPvnl4HXP-Pnhoxq6qw7eul7VHtkvxQjJHBkJFQQArj0Y>

² <https://42.tut.by/707003>

³ <https://nashaniva.by/?c=ar&i=262043&lang=ru>

⁴ <https://www.dw.com/ru/belarus-pravozashitniki-soobshhajut-o-bolee-300-zaderzhannyh/a-55533198>

⁵ <http://spring96.org/en/news/100313>

⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-belarus-election-protest-doctors-idUSKBN27N0EX>

⁷ <https://t.me/onlinerby/18512>

illegal actions.”⁸ **In the meantime, not a single case has been reported on abuse of authority by the country's security agencies.**

Coordination council

5 of the 7 members of the Presidium of the Coordination Council are in prison, two have been expelled from the country. About a dozen other members of the Coordination Council have spent 15 to 25 days in custody.⁹

Viktar Babaryka, a candidate in the 2020 presidential campaign who has been recognized as a political prisoner, had his prison term extended until 18 December. Maria Kalesnikava, a member of the Presidium of the Coordination Council, had hers extended until 8 January.¹⁰

Creative industries representative and Human Rights

Since August 2020, people have been gathering in their courtyards for small neighbours' festivals. Famous Belarusian musicians come to play at the “yard concerts”. On November 3, the authorities started to pressure the musicians who perform at such meetings. As of November 4, more than 10 artists are known to have been detained.

More artists are being persecuted: Dzianis Ivanou, a Chamber Choir musician, and Aliaksandr Serdziukou, a cellist, were detained near the Belarusian State Philharmonic where they work¹¹ ; Halina Kazimirouskaya, the Concordia choir conductor, was detained twice, imposed with a 520 euros fine and later released; choral conductor Tatsiana Haluza, a Belarusian State Academy of Music graduate and a Minsk State College of Arts teacher, was also detained; Andrus Takindang from the band Rekh was found guilty and sentenced to 15 days, the jazzman Pavel Arakelyan detained.^{12 13}

⁸<http://www.ctv.by/prokuratura-na-9-noyabrya-napravila-v-sudy-bolee-100-ugolovnyh-del-svyazannyh-s-massovymi>

⁹ <https://www.voiceofbelarus.com/live-feed-6-nov/>

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<https://www.rferl.org/a/belarus-extends-pretrial-detention-of-opposition-figure-kalesnikava/30934213.html>

¹¹ <https://belsat.eu/ru/news/91-j-den-protestov-zaderzhaniya-medikov-zhenshhin-i-muzykantov/>

¹²<https://naviny.media/new/20201105/1604550207-siloviki-prodolzhayut-zaderzhivat-muzykantov-vystup-ayushchih-na-dvorovyh>

¹³ <http://www.afn.by/news/i/283946>

On 4 November, 188 employees of the Bolshoi Theater of Belarus recorded a [video message](#) in support of their dismissed colleagues.¹⁴

PEN International is shocked by the Belarusian government onslaught upon writers, artists and the creative sector. It highlights that “cultural workers are a distinct vulnerable group who even in “peacetime” functions under adverse conditions and are on the front line during times of upheaval and crisis”. PEN International also calls “for all those who have been imprisoned to be freed, that reparation be made to those who have suffered physical and psychological harm, and a return of employment for those who have lost their jobs”.¹⁵

Good news

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)’s Moscow Mechanism report on Belarus released on November 5 describes sustained human rights violations and abuses committed on a massive scale and with impunity by the Belarusian authorities during the fraudulent August 9 election and its aftermath. The abuses against peaceful demonstrators, opposition activists, and journalists include torture, arbitrary detention, and curtailment of the exercise of freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.

The recommendations in this report provide the Belarusian authorities with a roadmap out of this crisis.

Other news

British Military Attaché Timothy Wight-Boycott and Deputy Ambassador Lisa Thumwood have been declared non grata by the Belarusian authorities.

¹⁴ <https://euroradio.fm/en/opera-house-employees-oppose-dismissal-colleagues>

¹⁵ <https://pen-international.org/news/belarus-writers-artists-and-cultural-workers-targeted-in-repression-against-the-democracy-movement>