

The information is aggregated from open source online resources and our own practice. In these newsletters, we will update you in brief on everyday human rights violations in numbers and facts.

## **Summary: Saturday 11 September 2021 to Friday 17 September 2021**

### **Migration crisis at Belarusian border**

The migration crisis continues to intensify at the Belarusian border with Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland. Over the [weekend](#) of 11–12 September 2021, 509 people attempted to cross the Belarusian–Polish border, 40 people attempted to cross Belarusian–Lithuanian border, and 34 the Belarusian–Latvian border. The situation on the ground deteriorates. Lithuanian officials [state](#) that there have been instances of “abuse, including sexual abuse” in migration camps.

On 14 September 2021, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, delivered the State of the European Union (EU) address before the European Parliament, urging Europeans to pay attention to the developments that are happening at EU borders with Belarus. She [noted](#) that “the regime in Minsk has instrumentalized human beings” and conducted “a hybrid attack to destabilise Europe”.

### **Developments in politically motivated cases**

Key developments in politically motivated cases include:

- On 9 September 2021, [Artsyom Barashka](#) was sentenced to three years of restricted freedom and a fine for insulting a police officer after posting a comment under a photo of an incident, where the officer in question had put a knee on a detainee’s neck;
- On 9 September 2021, a Russian court of the city of Belgorod ruled to extradite Belarusian citizen [Vadzim Duboyski](#), who is accused of taking part in “mass riots”;
- On 9 September 2021, journalist [Andrei Maslousky](#) was convicted of “dissemination of extremist materials” and sentenced to 15 days in jail;
- On 10 September 2021, [Syarhei Krupenich and Anastasiya Krupenich-Kandratsiyeva](#), a married couple from Minsk, were arrested for the fifth time in a row for exchanging information in private messages from Telegram channels, which the Belarusian authorities consider “extremist”;
- On 10 September 2021, 19-year-old [Viktoryia Lyovina](#) was detained and fined for approximately 900 USD for her white–red dyed hair, which the authorities considered as “picketing”;
- On 11 September 2021, Belarusian musician [Alexey Busel](#) and his mother Tatsiana Busel were detained and sentenced to 15 days in jail for intending to take part in a street march, which did not end up taking place;
- On 12 September 2021, the Belarusian Investigative Committee initiated a criminal case against an independent TV channel [Belsat](#) for alleged tax evasion;
- On 13 September 2021, the Belarusian Investigative Committee in its official statement stated that [1,600 criminal cases](#) about “mass riots” have been opened since June 2020;

- On 13 September 2021, [Viktar Fyanchuk](#), a former head of the environmental watchdog Protection of Motherland's Birds (APB Birdlife) was detained for another 10 days on a criminal charge of “organisation and preparation of actions that grossly violate public order”;
- On 14 September 2021, a criminal case was initiated against Hrodna blogger [Vadzim Yermashuk \(Vadimati\)](#) for posting “comments insulting the president on Instagram”;
- On 15 September 2021, punk rock musician and activist from Hrodna, [Ihar Bantser](#), sentenced to 1.5 years of restriction of liberty over “hooliganism”, was released from a punitive unit after spending a total of 40 days in complete isolation with no right to receive food parcels and denied medical aid when hunger striking;
- On 15 September 2021, Belarusian authorities extended the detention of political prisoner [Andrey Alyaksandrau](#) over the coming two months, until 12 November 2021;
- An [overview](#) of the fight against “extremism” in Belarus for June and July 2021 is available in English.

### **13 prisoners pardoned, but some refuse to plea for it**

Two political prisoners [Palina Sharenda-Panasyuk](#) and [Natallia Hersche](#) refused to ask Belarusian authorities for a pardon, despite being encouraged to do so. Meanwhile, a state TV channel reported that 13 people [were pardoned](#) by Alexander Lukashenko. [The names](#) of the pardoned are: Viktar Kalinouski, Valery Laza, Maksim Shaulinski, Ihar Bukovskih, Eugeniyy Posheliuk, Eugeniyy Korolchuk, Sergey Rudinskiy, Vadzim Sychik, Yulia Kasheverova, Alexander Babrou, Eugeniyy Rapin, Alexey Korshun, and Eugeniyy Govar.

### **Intimidation of businesses and within state institutions**

Employees of state institutions in Klimavichy, Mahiliou region, who had supported alternative candidates running for the presidency in Belarus in 2020, [were forced](#) to record repentant videos and say that one of the candidates and now a political prisoner, [Viktar Babaryka](#), was a criminal to avoid being dismissed. Reportedly, it began after the incident with [Krystsina Tsimanouskaya](#), a native of Klimavichy and an Olympic athlete, who left the Olympics to seek refuge in Poland due to fear of persecution in Belarus.

The General Prosecutor's Office in Belarus [warned](#) businesses that “the accountability for taking part in anti-social activities and financing it will be very harsh”.

### **Ice Hockey Federation suspends Belarus's top official**

The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) [imposed](#) a five year ban on Dmitry Baskov, the former head of the Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation, who [resigned](#) from his post shortly after the ban. The IIHF stated that the ban was due to politically motivated discrimination by Baskov against players, and his support for the country's authoritarian president. Baskov is believed by many to be involved in the death of Belarusian activist [Raman Bandarenka](#).

### **Political prisoners**

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [666](#). The number continues to grow daily.