

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 15 January 2022 to Friday 21 January 2022

New wave of searches and arrests in Belarus

On 19 January 2022, Ludzmila Volkava, a member of the presidium of the Belarusian Social Democratic Party (Hramada) and one of the administrators of the party's BSDP Telegram channel, was [searched, detained, and charged with grossly violating public order](#). Writer and journalist Sevyaryn Kvyatkouski was detained on the same day, along with a member of the Mahiliou Human Rights Center, Vasil Lipski. Other members of the Mahiliou Human Rights Center were searched.

The office of the leading mobile service provider, A1, was [searched](#) on the same day.

Earlier, on 13 January 2022, law enforcement officers [searched](#) the homes of the Radzislava women's rights organization, arresting two activists as a result (having already detained the head of organization, Volha Harbunova, since 9 November 2021).

Activist to be tried for de-anonymization of law enforcement officers

A Minsk resident passed on personal information about [660 employees](#) of the prosecutor's office and the State Control Committee to opposition Telegram channels. According to the state prosecution, after the publication the officers in question received threats and insults. The defendant is accused of "illegal actions in relation to information about private life and personal information", "assistance in inciting social hatred", and "backing threats of violence against an official as well as another person who performs civic duty".

Developments in politically motivated cases

According to the 13th edition of the World Prison Population List, Belarus occupies [second place](#) in Europe after Turkey, based on the number of imprisoned individuals per 100,000 people. Some of the key developments in politically motivated cases include:

- On 19 January 2022, sports journalist and political prisoner [Alyaksandr Ivulin](#) was found guilty of grossly violating public order and sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment;
- On 17 January 2022, activist and political prisoner [Mark Vasilkou](#) was sentenced to 1.5 years of restriction of liberty for grossly violating public order in connection with his participation in the 2020 protests;
- On 17 January 2022, a criminal case against a senior adviser to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Franak Vyachorka, and bloggers Anton Matolka, Stsyapan Putsila (NEXTA), and Raman Pratasevich was initiated by the Investigative Committee. [Vyachorka, Matolka, Putsila, and Pratasevich](#) are accused of conspiring to seize power, grossly violating public order, rioting, inciting hatred, calling for actions aimed at

causing harm to the national security of Belarus, slander, insulting the president, creating an extremist formation, financing extremist activities, and committing state treason;

- On 15 January 2022, a [Homiel region resident](#), who criticized the proposed amendments to the Belarusian Constitution in a local newspaper, was arrested.

ICAO report on Ryanair incident published

On 18 January 2022, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) released its fact-finding [report](#) into the incident involving the landing of Ryanair aircraft FR4978 in Belarus's airspace. ICAO representatives will formally consider any further actions to be taken by ICAO as a result of the report's findings during a meeting presently scheduled for 31 January 2022.

Migration crisis

While the [migration crisis](#) at the Belarus–EU border reached its peak in November 2021 and has subsided in scope since then, approximately [500 migrants](#) still remain stranded at the border, placed in Bruzgi logistics center.

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [990](#). The number continues to grow daily.