

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.

Saturday 5 March 2022 to Friday 11 March 2022

Human Constanta expresses its [solidarity](#) with the people of Ukraine. We urge the international community to prioritize the voices and stories of Ukrainians, highlight violations of human rights and international law, call for accountability for the actions of the aggressor, and [support the most vulnerable groups fleeing the war without discrimination](#).

Belarusian involvement in Russia–Ukraine armed conflict and persecution for sharing information about it

A Belarusian student is [charged](#) with aiding extremist activity for posting pictures of military equipment being moved through Belarusian territory. The practice of persecuting individuals for spreading information about the war and [Belarusian involvement](#) – by [allowing the territory to be used for military equipment movement and potentially engaging the army](#) – is particularly worrying, as new civil society anti-war initiatives are emerging, such as the Telegram channel [Belarusian Gayun](#), run by Belarusian activist Anton Matolko, whose platform was [previously recognized as “extremist.”](#) The channel unites approximately 57,000 users and collects first-hand information about the movement of Russian forces in Belarus. Similarly, Belarusians who are [blocking rail traffic to make it more difficult to move military cargo](#) to Ukraine are at risk of [persecution](#) for such anti-war action.

OHCHR’s report on the human rights situation in Belarus published

OHCHR Mission, tasked with analyzing the human rights situation in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and its aftermath, has produced a [report](#) concluding that “the coordinated responses to the peaceful protests of 9 to 14 August 2020, at least, including the unlawful use of less-lethal weapons against protesters, resulting in serious injuries or deaths, provides reasonable grounds to believe that security forces systematically engaged in unnecessary or disproportionate force with the illegitimate aims of suppressing protests and the expression of differing political viewpoints.”

The report stated that “the failure to effectively investigate human rights violations, including allegations of torture or other ill-treatment, is a contravention of the State’s obligations under international human rights law.” Additionally, OHCHR found that, besides the lack of investigation, there was “an active policy to shield perpetrators and prevent accountability, reflected in the degree of reprisals, intimidation of victims and witnesses, and attacks on lawyers and human rights defenders.”

The findings of the report are crucial in holding the regime’s functionaries accountable under existing international legal mechanisms. Highlighting the crimes of the Lukashenko regime, which international actors [have not recognized as lawful](#) since the fraudulent election in 2020, could also help combat the [stigmatization of Belarusians](#) who stood up against the regime and remain at dire risk of persecution, even as they are seeking ways to [help vulnerable groups fleeing war in Ukraine](#).

Pardons of political prisoners on Women’s Day

Four women political prisoners – Anastasiya Yaroshevich, Natalia Turava, Liudmila Kuznetsova, and Alla Tikhomirova – [were pardoned](#) on 8 March 2022 in connection with Women’s Day celebrations. The women who were released from prison had to record videos for TV, stating that they fully admit their guilt and are grateful to Lukashenko for their release.

Treatment of prisoners detained following anti-war protests

One of approximately [900 people detained for participation in anti-war protests](#) in Belarus [reported](#) that protesters faced inhumane conditions in prison – 17 people, who were placed in a prison cell designed for 2, were not fed from 27 February to 1 March 2022, had no access to fresh air, and were forced to live in cells with unhygienic conditions, with cockroaches and woodlice.

Belarusian diplomat leaves job to protest Belarusian involvement in Russia–Ukraine war

An employee of the Belarusian consulate in Germany, Natalia Khovstova, [resigned](#) from diplomatic service, citing her disagreement with state policies since such policies did not reflect the values of “service to the people, rule of law, and human rights.” She has applied for protection in Germany.

More blocks and “extremist” censorship in Belarus

Three videos by Russian journalist Yuriy Dud, related to the Belarusian protests, were [recognized as extremist](#) in Belarus. Belarusian independent media outlet Zerkalo.io (previously known as [TUT.BY](#)) was also [blocked](#) in Russia.

Human Constanta’s website has been blocked for the second time: first, humanconstanta.by was blocked in January 2022, and now the new domain, humanconstanta.org, was blocked in March 2022.

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1089](#). The number continues to grow daily.