

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 12 March 2022 to Friday 18 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 volunteer fighters killed near Kyiv**

The Kastus Kalinouski battalion, consisting of Belarusians voluntarily fighting on the Ukrainian side in the Russia–Ukraine war, reported that [two Belarusian volunteer fighters](#), Ilya Khrenov (nickname Litvin) and Alexey Skoblya (nickname Tur), were [killed](#) in battle near Kyiv.

### **Belarusians overwhelmingly against Belarusian troops' involvement in Russia–Ukraine war**

According to the British research center Chatham House, Belarusians [do not support](#) the possible involvement of the Belarusian army in the war against Ukraine on the side of Russia. Only 3% of respondents supported the participation of the Belarusian military.

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

The practice of persecuting individuals for sharing 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.

On 17 March 2022, the Prosecutor General's Office of Belarus opened a criminal case against [Aleksey Arestovich](#), adviser to the Office of the President of Ukraine for “calling for acts of terrorism and sabotage at the facilities of the Belarusian Railway”. Arestovich [reacted](#) to this by distinguishing the criminal, illegitimate regime of Alexander Lukashenko from the Belarusian people, who “have already given the regime an evaluation”.

On 16 March 2022, Telegram channel [Belarusian Gayun](#), run by Belarusian activist Anton Matolko, [was recognized as “extremist”](#). The channel unites approximately 90,000 users and collects first-hand information about the movement of Russian forces in Belarus. Previously, the channel reported several [explosions](#) heard in southern Belarus – in the cities of Baranovich and Stolin. The explosions are believed to be part of a provocation to give an excuse to Belarusian troops to take direct part in the Russian–Ukrainian conflict. Currently, Belarus is involved in the conflict by providing its [territory and supplies](#), but not its troops, to the aggressor.

On 15 March 2022, two Belarusian citizens were [detained](#) for attempting to clean a bomb shelter in their building. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

On 10 March 2022, two Mazyr citizens were [charged](#) with conspiring to commit an act of terrorism for planning to destroy Russian military equipment transported through Belarusian territory.

### **Belarusian journalists imprisoned**

Two journalists from Belarusian independent media outlet Nasha Niva – editor-in-chief Yahor Martsinovich and director of marketing Andrey Skurko – were [sentenced](#) to two and a half years in prison for allegedly violating the procedure of paying utility bills for Nasha Niva's office in Minsk.

### **Minsker imprisoned for a picture from protests**

[Andrei Chudzinou](#) was sentenced to two years of imprisonment for “grossly violating public order” by taking part in peaceful protests. The only piece of evidence used against him was a picture from the protest. Chudzinou spent two months in pre-trial detention.

### **Six political prisoners in TUT.BY case released**

Three political prisoners and employees of independent media outlet TUT.BY (now Zerkalo.io), formally charged with tax evasion, [were released](#) from prison. Chief accountant Angela Assad, deputy chief accountant Mariya Novik, editor-in-chief of the political section of the outlet Volha Loiko, deputy technical director Alexander Daineko, Publisher Box manager Andrey Avdeev, and deputy director Iryna Rybalko were forced to sign a non-disclosure agreement upon their release. They remain suspects in the criminal case. Six other TUT.BY employees remain imprisoned on the same charges.

### **Political prisoners**

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1095](#). The number continues to grow daily.