

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 16 April 2022 to Friday 22 April 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](#).

Additionally, Human Constanta published a piece on why [actions of Belarusian de-facto authorities can be recognized as war crimes](#).

### **Belarusian involvement in Russia–Ukraine armed conflict**

On 20 April 2022, Human Rights Committee registered a complaint of 3 Belarusian and 3 Ukrainian citizens regarding Belarusian involvement in Russia-Ukraine war and the resulting violations of their right to life has recently adopted [interim measures](#), indicating that Belarus “must not allow the use of its territory and infrastructure to conduct military operations, which have a direct impact and cause a real risk of ill treatment and arbitrary deprivation of life.”

While Belarusian *de-facto* authorities remain co-aggressors, [the representatives of Belarusian elected leader in exile Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya visited Kyiv](#) on 21 April 2022 to provide assistance to a Belarusian Kastus Kalinouski battalion, fighting on the Ukrainian side and arrange meetings with Ukrainian officials.

### **Extremism cases**

The Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus commented on the rising number on “anti-extremism” cases. The agency stated that libel, contempt, disclosure of personal data comprise [41%](#) of the total number of extremism-related cases.

One of the most recent examples of persecution based on “anti-extremism” legal provisions includes the arrest of “single window” civil services employee [Sviatlana Buchkovskaya](#), who was allegedly reporting personal data of law enforcement officers to “extremist” Telegram channels.

Another case of persecution of “terrorism” involves [Alesya Bunevich](#), the director of a printing center in Vilnius, who came to Belarus on her mother’s funeral anniversary and was detained on the border of Belarus and the European Union. She is reportedly accused of committing a terrorist act, which has a connection to the case of railroad guerillas.

Moreover, Telegram channel “Belarus of the brain,” which published information critical to Belarusian de-fact authorities was recognized as “extremist.”

Human Constanta has recently published a new [review](#) of the situation with “anti-extremism” and the use of “extremism” grounds for the purposes of political persecution in war time, as well as [17 short notes on “anti-extremism” in Belarus](#).

### **Persecution of professional communities**

Belarusian authorities have recently increased pressure already exerted on [independent labor unions](#). On 19 April 2022, the homes of the head and deputy head of Belarusian Congress of Independent Labor Unions Alexander Yarashuk and Siarhei Antusevich were

searched. The founders now do not respond to phone calls. Another employee of the union's office was searched and taken in for questioning. On the same day the head of Belarusian Free Labor Union Mikhail Shorah was also searched and detained.

Professional groups remain a target for political repressions. Lawyer Alexander Danilevich [was fired](#) from his position of law professor at Belarusian State University, following his open statements condemning the war in Ukraine and criticizing Belarusian authorities. On 21 April 2022, Alexander Lukashenko [stated](#) that Belarusian lawyers should be "kept under control" since the society is already "fed up with freedom."

### **Political prisoners**

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1143](#). The number continues to grow daily.