

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 23 April 2022 to Friday 29 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](#).

Human Constanta has published a piece on why the [actions of the de facto Belarusian authorities can be categorized as war crimes](#).

### **Belarus to introduce the death penalty for attempted acts of terrorism**

The Belarusian authorities plan to introduce the [death penalty](#) for attempted acts of terrorism. The relevant amendments to the Criminal Code were passed by the House of Representatives in two simultaneous readings. Details of the changes to the Criminal Code were not disclosed.

The current Code provides for the death penalty under terrorism-related articles for:

- Committing an act of terrorism against a representative of a foreign state or international organization or murder of a representative of a foreign state or international organization in order to provoke war or destabilize public order in a foreign state (Part 2 of Article 124);
- Committing an act of international terrorism as part of an organized group, or with the use of nuclear energy or radioactive or toxic substances, etc. (Part 3 of Article 126);
- An act of terrorism committed by an organized group, either with the use of a nuclear facility, or with the use of radioactive substances or nuclear materials, strong, toxic chemical or biological substances, or involving the murder of a person (Part 3 of Article 289);
- The murder of a state or public figure, committed because of their state or public activity, in order to influence decision-making by the authorities or obstruct political or other public activity, intimidate the population, or destabilize public order (Part 2 of Article 359).

Several political prisoners, whose cases are currently pending, are charged with articles related to terrorism.

### **Human rights center “Viasna” celebrates its 26th birthday**

“Viasna” (‘spring’ in Belarusian) is one of the leading and oldest human rights organizations in Belarus, operating since 1996 but liquidated by the decision of Belarusian authorities, alongside other Belarusian human rights organizations. “Viasna” has consistently stood up against political repression and violations of fundamental rights in Belarus.

Seven “Viasna” human rights defenders are currently behind bars: chairperson Ales Bialiatski, deputy chairperson Valiantsin Stefanovich, lawyer Uladzimir Labkovich, coordinator of Viasna's network of volunteers Marfa Rabkova, head of Viasna's office in Homieĺ Leanid Sudalenka, volunteers Tatsiana Lasitsa and Andrei Chapiuk.

A virtual board to congratulate “Viasna” is available [here](#).

## **Political persecution continues**

On 25 April 2022, TikTok and YouTube vlogger [Andrey Belyavskiy](#) was arrested and detained in Bobruisk. He is charged with offending Alexander Lukashenko in the videos on his channel 'I Have a Question'. He was forced to record a confession video, published on pro-government channels.

A taxi driver from Barysau [was detained](#) for refusing to give a ride to a Russian soldier, saying that he would drive no Russian soldiers unless they leave the country for good. The driver was charged with "extremism" and his confession video was published on pro-government channels.

## **Political prisoners**

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1142](#). The number continues to grow daily.