

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 9 July 2022 to Friday 15 July 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](#).

### **Persecution related to Russian aggression against Ukraine**

On 11 July 2022, it became known that the Vitebsk District Court sentenced local resident [Aleksey Vyacherniy](#) to one year and nine months in prison in a general regime colony under Article 368 of the Criminal Code (“Insulting the president”). He was accused of posting a video with an anti-war poem on TikTok, in which, among other things, Alexander Lukashenko is criticized.

On 13 July 2022, it became known that [Yegor Lebyadok](#), an independent military-political observer, had been detained. Lebyadok, in his published analysis and media comments, predicted the likelihood of a Russian attack on Ukraine, assessed whether Belarus would be drawn into it, commented on its first results, and suggested how it would develop further. The next day a [video appeared on pro-government channels](#), apparently filmed under pressure from the security forces, in which the analyst admits that he gave interviews to channels that are recognized as extremist in Belarus on the topic of the war in Ukraine and other issues.

On 14 July 2022, the Brest Regional Court sentenced Intex-press journalist [Yury Gontsarevich](#) to two and a half years in prison under Article 361-3 of the Criminal Code (“Assistance to extremist activity”) for sending a photo of the movement of military equipment to RadioFreeEurope / RadioLiberty, a media outlet recognized as extremist in Belarus. In court, Gontsarevich said that by his act “he wanted to show that not Belarusian, but Russian planes are flying towards Ukraine, he wanted to prove that Belarus is not participating in hostilities.”

### **Repression of independent journalists on the rise**

On 13 July 2022, the Gomel Regional Court sentenced [Ekaterina Andreeva](#), a Belsat TV channel journalist, to eight years and three months in prison under Article 356 of the Criminal Code (“High treason”). Andreeva was found guilty “of giving to a foreign state, international or foreign organization or their representatives the state secrets of the Republic of Belarus”. The trial was held behind closed doors, and therefore the basis for a new criminal case is unknown.

On 13 July 2022, it became known that the criminal case against [Tina Palinskaya](#), a journalist from Polotsk, was transferred to the prosecutor’s office. The persecution of Palinskaya was based on her critical Facebook post about the visit of the Russian Patriarch Kirill to Belarus.

### **Liquidation of independent labour unions**

On 13 July 2022, by decision of the Supreme Court, the Belarusian Independent Labour Union and the Belarusian Labour Union of Radio-Electronic Industry Workers (REP), previously declared an “extremist formation,” [were liquidated](#). Also on 14 July 2022, a decision was made to liquidate the Free Labour Union of Belarus (SPB) and the Free Labour Union of Metal Workers (SPM). In fact, the liquidation of these organizations means the final purge of the independent trade union movement in Belarus. It should be noted that more than ten leaders and activists of these labour unions are imprisoned.

## **Ban on leaving the country for political reasons**

On 11 July 2022, information appeared about imminent [changes to the law “On the procedure for exit from the Republic of Belarus and entry into the Republic of Belarus of citizens of the Republic of Belarus.”](#) After the adoption of the changes, the State Security Committee (KGB) will be able to restrict the right to leave the country of citizens “whose departure is contrary to the interests of the national security of the Republic of Belarus”. Also, a ban on leaving the country will be imposed on people against whom an administrative process is underway for committing administrative offenses against the management order (for example, within the framework of such ‘political’ articles as “Disobedience to the demand of an official” or “Violation of the procedure for organizing mass events”).

## **Political prisoners**

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1259](#). The number continues to grow daily.