

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 11 June 2022 to Friday 17 June 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 for anti-war speech

On 14 June 2022, the KGB included [Danuta Perednya](#), a resident of the city of Kirovsk, Mogilev region, in the list of people involved in terrorist activities. She is accused of “calling for harm to national security” and insulting Alexander Lukashenko, because on 27 February 2022, she reposted a text in one of the Mogilev chats, which sharply criticized the actions of Vladimir Putin and Lukashenko in unleashing war in Ukraine. This post also contained a call for street action and argued that the Belarusian army lacked prospects of success in the event of its direct entry into the war.

The list of people involved in terrorist activities has been updated

On 14 June 2022, the State Security Committee (KGB) [included nine Belarusians](#) in the list of people involved in terrorist activities, four of whom are involved in the [Zeltser case](#) for comments on the Internet (mass detentions of Belarusians who spoke out in support of Andrei Zeltser, who opened fire on security forces who tried to enter his apartment) and were categorized by human rights activists as political prisoners. Other Belarusians, with a high degree of probability, were also included in the list for negative comments about representatives of the Lukashenko regime, as well as for participating in protests, which the authorities refer to as “mass riots.”

On 16 June 2022, the list of “terrorists” was updated with [three more people](#): two of them are accused of “inciting hatred”, presumably for sharp criticism of the authorities on the Internet, and the third, a resident of Golshani, Ivan Verbitsky, was previously convicted under Article 289 of the Criminal Code (act of terrorism) for jokingly calling for setting fire to the buildings of the KGB and the prosecutor's office.

Currently, in total about 80 Belarusians are included in the list of “terrorists” held on politically motivated charges – on par with members of ISIS, Al-Shabab, etc.

Repression against lawyers on rise

On 14 June 2022, there was news about the detention of a lawyer from the Minsk Regional Collegium, [Vyacheslav Chichin](#), and four more of his colleagues. The lawyers were detained for their legal consultation chat, in which they corresponded, and are now accused of distributing “extremist materials.”

On 16 June 2022, the court of the Leninsky district of Minsk sentenced the lawyer [Andrey Mochalov](#), who was deprived of his license to practise in Belarus, to two years of restriction of freedom with a referral to an open correctional institution for “using a knowingly false document.” In June 2021, Mochalov was supposed to defend a woman prosecuted for political reasons, but when he came to court he found out that he, like many other independent lawyers, had been deprived of his lawyer's license. As a result of the fact that he came to court on an invalid lawyer's certificate, he was convicted.

Harassment of independent media

On 13 June 2022, photographer [Yevhen Yerchak](#) was detained in Minsk. In a “repentance video” filmed by the security forces, the young man admits that he was a freelance correspondent for TUT.BY (recognized as an extremist organization in Belarus), and that in 2020 he allegedly took part in protest actions and was subscribed to extremist Telegram channels. On 15 June 2022, it became known that the Sovietsky District Court of Minsk sentenced Yerchak to [15 days of imprisonment](#) on charges of disobeying police officers.

On 14 June 2022, by the decision of the Economic Court of the city of Minsk, the [LLC “TUT BY MEDIA”](#) (the most popular media outlet in Belarus) was recognized as an extremist organization. Now that its activities are banned on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, it the organization will be liquidated and use of its symbols will be prohibited.

On 16 June 2022, [three journalists from the Avtobiznes portal](#), including the editor-in-chief, were detained for messages in a work chat. In a “repentant video” that was distributed on pro-government Telegram channels, one of the publication’s employees says that “in August 2020, he published messages in a work chat calling for violence against police officers”; the editor-in-chief is accused of allegedly calling for state media employees’ cars to be set on fire.

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1227](#). The number continues to grow daily.