

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 21 May 2022 to Friday 27 May 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](#).

### **Repression against independent lawyers and attorneys**

On 21 May, in Minsk, the security forces detained a lawyer and former professor of Belarusian State University, [Alexander Danilevich](#), who had previously signed an open appeal by lawyers and attorneys to stop the war in Ukraine, linked to which he was dismissed from the university. It is known that at the moment he is in the State Security Committee's (KGB) pre-trial detention center. On the morning of 23 May, lawyer [Vitaly Braginets](#), who worked in the legal advice office of Dzerzhinsky district, Minsk, was detained. As in the case of Danilevich, the exact reason for the detention is not known; however, on 25 May it became known that Braginets [was sentenced](#) to 15 days of detention, allegedly for "disobeying legal demands".

### **Repression against independent media continues**

On 20 May, the Leninsky District Court of the city of Grodno recognized the website and social networks of the [independent mass media agency Mediazona.Belarus](#) as extremist material, and material from the organization became prohibited in terms of storage and distribution.

On 26 May, Alexander Demidovich, the Silver Screen cinema chain's commercial director, was detained, after which a search was carried out in his house. Security forces told his colleagues "that he would not be at work for 10 days". Previously, Demidovich worked in various positions for the independent publication TUT.BY (which was 'destroyed' by the security forces having been recognized as 'extremist material'), including heading one of the divisions of the commercial service.

On 26 May, in the village of Krivichi, Ilye district, after a search, independent journalist [Alexander Lyubyanchuk](#) was detained.

### **Abuse of anti-terrorist and anti-extremist legislation to persecute the opposition**

On 23 May, the KGB updated the list of people involved in terrorist activities, [including five Belarusians](#) accused under Article 289 of the Criminal Code ("Act of Terrorism"), against whom the court verdict did not enter into force, which grossly violates the principle of presumption of innocence. On 24 May, the list was again updated [with an additional 15 people](#), including well-known opposition political prisoners Maxim Znak and Maria Kolesnikova. People on the list (it now contains about 60 Belarusians) have been limited in their ability to carry out various economic transactions, including money transfers to places of detention.

On 25 May, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) [updated the list of people involved in extremist activities](#), which currently includes more than 270 people, all of whom are included on the basis of convictions on politically motivated charges (for example, participation in protests, criticism of civil servants). These individuals are subject to restrictions in their

professional activities (for example, they cannot engage in publishing or teaching), a ban on holding public office, and their financial transactions are also subject to increased control.

### **A wave of repression against the independent labor union movement**

From 19 to 22 April, [mass searches and arrests of leaders and members of labor unions](#) took place throughout Belarus. There are seven activists from independent labor unions in the KGB detention center: the chairman of the Belarusian Congress of Democratic Labor Unions Alexander Yaroshuk and his deputy Sergei Antusevich; Gennady Fedynich, former head of the Independent Labor Union of Radio-Electronic Industry Workers, as well as its members Vatslav Oreshko and Vasily Beresnev; deputy chairman of the Free Labor Union of Metalworkers Aleksey Yevdokimchik, and former chairman of the Free Labor Union of Belarus Nikolai Sharakh. In addition to these activists, another 15 members of labor unions were detained throughout Belarus, but the specifics of the charges are not known.

### **Political prisoners**

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1207](#). The number continues to grow daily.