

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 28 May 2022 to Friday 3 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 1 June 2022, employees of the notorious Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption (GUBOPiK) detained TikTok blogger [Maria Vashchilova](#), who, among other things, posted videos against Russian aggression in Ukraine. In addition to videos “in support of Ukraine” and with “offensive statements addressed to senior officials,” she is also accused of participating in “unauthorized” rallies during protests in 2020, which were allegedly accompanied by road closures. A case was initiated against Vashchilova under Article 342 of the Criminal Code, “Actions grossly violating public order.”

Prosecution statistics on “protest” articles of the Criminal Code for May 2022

According to the Human Rights Center “Viasna,” [93 people were convicted](#) in politically motivated criminal cases in May, 2022, and the courts sentenced in total: 117 years and 1 month of imprisonment, 32 years of restraint of liberty, 99 years and 10 months of restraint of liberty at home, 9 months of arrest, and 27,520 Belarusian rubles fine (approx. 10,600 USD) as an additional punishment. The number of political prisoners increased by 53 people in one month.

Oppression of opposition politicians

On 31 May 2022, the Leninsky District Court of Minsk sentenced [Lyudmila Volkova](#), member of the Belarusian Social Democratic Party (Hramada) and administrator of the party’s official Telegram channel, to two years in prison in a general regime colony on charges of gross violation of public order for participating in protest actions in 2020. Moreover, the court satisfied the civil suit of the Minsktrans enterprise against Volkova and ordered her to pay the organization 152,000 rubles (approx. \$58,000), arguing that her participation in the protests resulted in blocking public transport.

On 1 June 2022, the Supreme Court upheld the sentences of the defendants in the [“Tikhanovsky case:”](#) popular opposition politicians Sergei Tikhanovsky and Nikolai Statkevich were confirmed to be sentenced to 18 and 14 years in prison respectively, and opposition bloggers Igor Losik and Vladimir Tsyganovich were finally sentenced to 15 years in prison. In this case, the punishment of the videographer of the opposition movement “Country for Life”, Artem Sakov, and the SMM specialist of the movement, Dmitry Popov, with 16 years in prison was also confirmed. The investigation considers the defendants in this case to be mainly responsible for the “mass riots” in August 2020. The role of Tikhanovsky himself, according to the Investigative Committee, was to “recruit agents” during trips around the country and search for “accomplices” who created regional opposition chats.

Repression against the independent labor union movement continue

On 1 June 2022, [Vladimir Krysenok](#), a strike participant at the Naftan enterprise, was found hanged at home. This happened a week after he was detained by the security forces. During the interrogation, the security forces threatened him with 12 years' imprisonment, after which he was temporarily released under a preventive measure in the form of a subscription not to leave the territory of Belarus.

Punishment of activists who help hide from politically motivated persecution

On 1 June 2022, the Shchuchinsky District Court (Grodno region) sentenced activist [Yevhen Buynitsky](#) to 4.5 years in a high-security colony and a fine of 110 basic units (approx. 1,050 USD) for helping to evacuate people persecuted for political reasons from Belarus. According to the indictment, Buynitsky had brought people to the border zone with Lithuania for eight months.

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1216](#). The number continues to grow daily.