

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 July 2022 to Friday 29 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](#).

‘Railroad guerillas’ persecution

Four people – [Arsenii Maiseichyk, Adam Sauko, Siarhei Batura, and Mikita Kuntysch](#) – were sentenced to prison terms of five to six years for their alleged involvement in ‘[rail guerillas](#)’ activities in Belarus. ‘Rail guerillas’ are persecuted in Belarus for sharing information about the movement of Russian military equipment on Telegram channels and sabotaging railroad tracks to prevent such movement. In the case of the defendants, the investigation claimed that they received telescopic batons and tasers, as well as instructions for sabotaging the railroad, from the administrators of the Civil Self-Defense Units of the Belarus Telegram chat.

Anti-war speech in general continues to trigger criminal persecution in Belarus. On 28 July 2022, 17-year-old Pressobol newspaper writer [Raman Kachyna](#) was detained for leaving a comment on social media, stating that “Belarusians have always been at war with Russians”. Following his detention, a confession tape, featuring him admitting guilt, was published on pro-government Telegram channels.

New names on Terrorist List

Two more names were added to [the List of Entities and Individuals Involved in Terrorist Activities](#), maintained by the State Security Committee (KGB). Yauhen Babak is an ex-prosecutor, who in August 2020 attempted to investigate crimes allegedly committed by law enforcement authorities. Following the 2020 protests, he left his job, was charged with grossly violating public order, sentenced to four years in prison, and recognized as a [political prisoner](#). Stanislau Kuzmitskiy is an activist, currently charged with inciting social hatred, participating in a terrorist organization, and publicly calling for the imposition of sanctions on Belarus.

Originally, the Terrorist List encompassed people included in the UN Security Council Sanctions List. More recently, the list has often become supplemented with the names of people tried on extremism-related charges. The list includes the leaders of Belarusian democratic forces: Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Pavel Latushka, and Maryia Kalesnikava. The most recent Human Constanta [review](#) of ‘anti-extremist’ laws and practices provides an analysis of other cases of persecution on ‘anti-extremist’ charges in Belarus.

Belarusian diplomat calls human rights a utopia

On 27 July 2022, Belarusian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Yuriy Ambrazevich spoke at the Beijing Human Rights Forum. In his [speech](#), he mentioned the need to desacralize human rights in international relations “as a kind of utopia that cannot be realized in practice” and to de-instrumentalize human rights, “gradually [moving] it in the format of voluntary UPR-like reviews”.

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1265](#). The number continues to grow daily.