

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 30 July 2022 to Friday 5 August 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](#).

Journalists behind bars

Journalist [Iryna Slaunikava](#) was found guilty of grossly violating public order and establishing an “extremist formation” and sentenced to 5 years in prison. According to the case records, Slaunikava “brought together a group of citizens who, under her direction and control, created and posted extremist materials on numerous Polish media resources.” By Polish media resources, the prosecution meant an independent Belarusian TV channel – Belsat TV, based in Poland, but covering news from Belarus.

Persecution for wanting to join Ukraine's armed units

On 28 July 2022, Brest resident [Siarhei Vaitsiuk](#) was sentenced to 2.5 years in a medium-security prison for “attempted participation in hostilities on the territory of a foreign state” under Part 1 of Article 14 and Part 1 of Article 361-3 of the Criminal Code. According to the indictment, Vaitsiuk “in April 2022 found out through various Internet resources the procedure and possible ways of enlisting in the armed units of Ukraine and contacted their representatives. To implement his plan ... in mid-April he tried to cross the border in the direction of Ukraine, including outside of the established checkpoints, but did not carry out his intention to the end, as he was detained by law enforcers.”

Meanwhile, persecution related to opinions on the war in Ukraine continues in Belarus. On 2 August 2022, the Minsk Prosecutor’s Office transferred the [case](#) of a Minsk resident, who was openly critical of the Russian invasion in Ukraine, to the court. According to the prosecution, the defendant posted pictures online that “spread opinions ... undermining trust in the military and police of the Russian Federation, seeking to incite hatred against them.”

Disclosing personal data of police officers

On 3 August 2022, political prisoner and former head of the Minsk Municipal State Registration and Land Cadastre Agency, Siarhei Petrushenka, was sentenced to 6.5 years of imprisonment for posting personal data about Smarhoń police officers, allegedly involved in violently suppressing the protests, on a Telegram channel.

Detention for “extremist” tattoos

During a music festival on 3 August 2022, one of the guests [was detained](#) for “demonstrating extremist symbols.” The grounds for the detention were his tattoos – the Belarusian historical state emblem “Pahonya” (“Chase” in English), often associated with the protest movement, and an anarchist symbol.

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1251](#). The number continues to grow daily.