

The information is aggregated from open online sources and our own practice. In these newsletters, we will update you in brief on everyday human rights violations in numbers and facts.

Saturday 5 November 2022 to Friday 18 November 2022

HRD detention extended

On 14 November 2022, Belarusian human rights defender Nasta Lojka was sentenced to serve her fourth administrative jail term for her human rights work. On 6 September 2022, Nasta was detained while attending the hearing in the so-called [“Revolutionary Action” group case](#), where political prisoners were being tried. On 21 September 2021, Belarusian authorities were supposed to release Nasta after serving her 15-day administrative sentence. However, on the same day, she was re-arrested and once again sentenced to 15 days in jail for “petty hooliganism” under Article 19.1 of the Administrative Code. She was released from jail on 6 October 2022. She was re-arrested again on 28 October 2022 and sentenced to two consecutive administrative terms on 31 October 2022 and 14 November 2022. The statements on Nasta’s [first](#), [second](#), and [third](#) sentences are available on Human Constanta website.

The second forced “confession video” featuring Nasta appeared in the Telegram channel “Center’s Summaries” (“Сводочки Центра” in Russian) – most likely, another channel of the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption of the Belarusian Ministry of Internal Affairs (GUBOPiK). The practice of publishing such videos is part of the [digital authoritarianism](#) toolbox of the authorities, aimed at intimidating and humiliating dissenters.

Nasta reported being tortured during detention – the police officers hit her with a stun gun, forced her to spend 8 hours in the jail’s inner yard with no warm clothes on, denied her food and hygienic essentials packages, as well as requested medical assistance.

Online surveillance reaches unprecedented level

On 18 October 2022, Alexander Lukashenko issued Decree № 368 on the interaction of telecommunication operators, telecommunication service providers and owners of Internet resources with law enforcement and secret services. The Decree institutionalizes surveillance and takes it to an unprecedented level. In addition to existing surveillance practices, the Decree forces online resources, such as email providers, messengers, online retailers, taxi and car sharing services, to retain data about the users and provide the authorities with direct remote access to such data. It means that now law enforcement and secret services can obtain and correlate telecom data with online service data. These powers are not limited by any reasonable safeguards and cannot be challenged in courts due to their covert nature and factual impossibility to provide for the fair trial in Belarusian courts.

Such a repressive practice represents another step towards digital authoritarianism and suppression of digital rights of persons in Belarus, resulting in escalating intimidation of citizens and shrinking of civic space. [Hacktivists](#) (sometimes referred to as [digital vigilantes](#)) continue to be detained for deanonymizing the personal data of law enforcement officers online. At least [5 people](#) were detained for joining Telegram chat, associated with Kalinouski Battalion – a unit of Belarusian volunteer fighters within Ukrainian Armed Forces. On 7 November 2022, human rights defenders from Human Constanta, Belarusian Helsinki Committee, and Access Now in a [joint submission](#) called the attention of the United Nations special mandates to the new repressive instrument at the authorities’ disposal.

“Long Live Belarus” slogan is equated to Nazism

Belarusian authorities added the historic patriotic slogan [“Long live Belarus!”](#) to the list of outlawed Nazi symbols. It has been widely used by opposition activists and politicians, including during the 2020 peaceful protests. The officials stated that the slogan was used by Belarusians who collaborated with Nazi Germany in the 1940s. However, the greeting was actually introduced in 1905-1907 by Yanka Kupala, a prominent Belarusian poet and writer.

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1427](#). The number continues to grow daily.