

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 15 October 2022 to Friday 4 November 2022**

Political repressions continued to intensify in Belarus, leading to routine searches and arrests of activists, human rights defenders, politically active representatives of professional communities, and the regime's opponents generally. "Anti-extremism" laws remain an essential instrument, used to facilitate and effectuate mass repressions. On a single day of 28 October 2022, the Ministry of Internal Affairs put [625 more names](#) on the List of Persons Involved in Extremist Activities. More updates on the use and abuse of "anti-extremism" toolbox are available in Human Constanta's [most recent report](#) – now available in English.

### **HRD detained for the 3rd time in 2 months**

On 28 October 2022, human rights defender Nasta Lojka [was detained](#) again. Official reasons for her arrest remain unknown. A "confession video" featuring Nasta appeared in the Telegram channel "Center's Summaries" ("Сводки 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). Other channels of the agency were blocked by Telegram [six times](#), precisely for publishing such "confession videos," recorded under pressure.

In the Telegram post, allegedly made by GUBOPiK, where her detention was first covered, she was called a "famous fraudster," who helps political prisoners (the term "political prisoners" is used ironically by the post's authors seemingly suggesting that the persons in questions are not really the victims of the regime). The post also mentions Nasta's interview to independent news outlet Euroradio, highlighting that Euroradio was recognized as "extremist" under Belarusian laws and suggesting that such "cooperation" would make Nasta guilty of "aiding extremism."

Nasta Lojka has already been subjected to persecution for her human rights work – since August 2021 she has been a suspect in a criminal case related to the activities of "Viasna" human rights center. On [6 September 2022](#), Nasta was arbitrarily 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 Administrative Code. On [31 October 2022](#), Nasta was once again sentenced to 15 days in jail under the same article.

### **Professionals under pressure**

In the last week of October, news about [searches and detentions](#) among the employees of the Belarusian Academy of Science surfaced. According to Nasha Niva sources – the searches were conducted in several academic departments, including those working on Belarusian culture, language, and literature; philosophy; and physics. Reportedly, the employees of the State Security Committee (KGB) looked into the phones and computers of the academics. Some were taken to the KGB premises for questioning, while others were sentenced to jail time. Previously, Telegram chat "Academics against violence" was recognized as "extremist" by Belarusian authorities.

Another representative of a professional community – the head of the independent labor union of "Naftan" plant workers [Volha Britikava](#) was arrested on 1 November 2022 on

administrative grounds. Previously, Volha had already served a 75 administrative sentence for anti-war speech.

### **Political activists sentenced to prison time**

On 3 November 2022, United Civic Party leaders and political prisoners [Aksana Aliakseyeva](#), [Mikalai Kazlou](#), and [Antanina Kavaliova](#) were sentenced to terms from 12 to 30 months in jail for participating in the 2020 protests, which the prosecution interpreted as “grossly violating public order.”

### **Political prisoners**

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1355](#). The number continues to grow daily.