

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

Saturday 21 September 2024 to Friday 4 October 2024

The human rights crisis in Belarus continues to deepen. The analyzed period was marked by initiated investigation against Lukashenka's regime by the ICC, mass arrests of LGBTQ+ people, detention of a Belarusian for attacking a GUBOPiK officer and for comments about the incident, mass punishments of political prisoners for “malicious disobedience,” and repression for showing solidarity with political prisoners

ICC investigation against Lukashenka's regime

The International Criminal Court (ICC) [has initiated investigation](#) against the Lukashenka regime for repression and torture following the 2020 elections. This is the first time the international judicial body has officially investigated crimes committed by the Lukashenka regime. This step is the result of the work of human rights organizations and Belarusian democratic forces. Evidence was collected and submitted to Lithuania, which filed a complaint with the ICC. The criminal acts in question include:

- Deportation (many Belarusians were forced to leave the country under threat of persecution);
- Persecution of Belarusians in exile (deprivation of property, trials *in absentia*, repression against relatives in Belarus and other facts);
- Other inhumane acts.

Mass arrests of LGBTQ+ people

In September 2024, about 20 LGBT+ representatives [were detained](#) in Belarus, detentions having been reported in Mogilev, Baranovichi, Brest, Kobrin and other cities. Among those detained during this period were eight transgender persons, with reports drawn up on them for “petty hooliganism,” while two became defendants in criminal cases on the “distribution of pornography.” According to Radio Liberty, these people were most likely included in a separate database of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), on the basis of which the detentions were carried out. Some of the detainees were forced to leave Belarus due to the threat of further reprisals.

Detention for attacking GUBOPiK officer and for comments about the incident

On 23 September 2024, the MIA [reported](#) the detention of Mogilev resident Alksandr Kandrychyn, who allegedly attacked the employees of the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption ([GUBOPiK](#)), notorious for its active participation in repressions, with a knife . According to the security forces, the GUBOPiK employees “identified a local resident involved in extremist activities” and “during a preventive conversation, the man suddenly took out a knife and stabbed the police officers.” The police officer received medical assistance, and the Mogilev resident was detained. A criminal case was initiated against him for attempted murder of police officers under Article 139 of the Criminal Code. It should be noted that the unit's employees acted in civilian clothes without any identification marks, moreover, the reasons for conducting a conversation with the man are not given. At the same time, later, propaganda media [refuted the official version](#) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and stated that surveillance had been organized for the Mogilev resident for a very long time.

After the incident, security forces [conducted a raid](#) on residents of Mogilev who were somehow acquainted with the attacker. Human rights activists know about the detention of at

least 6 local residents, [including Alexander's friends](#). Human rights activists also documented detentions for online comments in which people justified attacks on police officers due to their involvement in human rights violations – in this regard, residents of [Grodno](#) and [Mogilev](#) were detained. The detentions were carried out by entire squads of special forces officers in full combat gear.

Mass punishments of political prisoners for “malicious disobedience”

The practice of punishing political prisoners under Article 411 of the Criminal Code (“malicious disobedience to the requirements of the administration of a correctional institution”) is expanding. The article is commonly used to put pressure on political prisoners, tighten the conditions in places of detention, and lengthen prison sentences. Thus, activist [Zmitser Dashkevich's](#) prison term was extended by 1 year and 3 months (he was previously sentenced to 1.5 years of imprisonment), and [Volha Mayorova](#), convicted in the “[Autukhovich case](#)” had her term extended by 1.5 years (she was previously sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment).

Repression for showing solidarity with political prisoners

Mass persecution of people who support political prisoners, as well as relatives of political prisoners who were detained during a KGB raid on people who showed solidarity with them, continues ([according to the HRC “Viasna.”](#) there are at least 17 documented cases of prosecution in this regard). On 23 September 2024, Grodno Regional Court sentenced 50-year-old Aksana Liapko to 3 years in prison on charges of “aiding extremist activity” under Article 361-4 of the Criminal Code for actions to assist political prisoners, which were not prohibited even under Belarusian repressive legislation.

Political prisoners

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1285](#) (during the analyzed period, human rights activists recognized 12 new people as political prisoners). Despite the fact that from 3 July to 16 September 2024, 115 political prisoners were released as a result of pardons, during the same period, human rights activists [recognised](#) 142 new people as political prisoners. As of 4 October 2024, our colleague [Nasta Lojka](#) has been in custody for more than 2 years ([737 days](#)).