

Submission by the International Strategic Action Network for Security (iSANS) to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus

23 February 2025

This information is submitted in response to the call for input for the 2025 report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus to the Human Rights Council.¹

International Strategic Action Network for Security (iSANS) focuses in its documentation, research and advocacy work primarily on the situation in Belarus and the region of Eastern and Central Europe. The present submission is based on a weekly update on the ongoing political repression in the Republic of Belarus, that iSANS has been compiling for several years as part of its weekly digest “Belarus Review”.² The submission covers the period of the last three months (end of November 2024 – end of February 2025). We use a broad range of open sources and our own data received through non-public channels. In most cases, we include reference to the source of information. When no reference is provided, it means that these our own information and analysis.

General statistics for the year 2024

“Viasna” Human Rights Center reported a record increase in political repression in 2024.³ In total, at least 8,895 cases of political repression during the year were recorded, much more than in 2023. This number includes both criminal and administrative persecution. It is noted that human rights defenders do not receive all information about the repression due to public intimidation, which means that the real figure is much higher. A quarter of the convicts were women. Minsk and the Minsk region remained the most repressive part of Belarus — 2,772 persons were persecuted. The Brest and the Hrodna regions were next in terms of the number of the repressed — 1,925 and 1,363 persons, respectively. The number of politically-motivated administrative cases throughout the country has increased to 5,890, which is 2,000 more than in 2023. At least 1,721 people were convicted in politically motivated criminal cases.⁴ 1,019 people were convicted of participating in the 2020 protests under the charges of organizing and preparing actions that grossly violate public order, or actively participating in them, 380 people were sentenced for insulting Lukashenka or a government representative, 186 people – for inciting hatred 109 Belarusians were prosecuted for facilitating extremist activities, 75 for calling for sanctions. Since 2020, at least 3,277

¹ Call for input: 2025 report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus to the Human Rights Council, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2025/call-input-2025-report-special-rapporteur-situation-human-rights-belarus-human>

² All issues of the weekly digest “Belarus Review” by iSANS are published here: <https://isans.org/analysis/belarus-review/>.

³ Более 5 800 осужденных: итоги административного преследования в 2024 году. Вясна, 05.01.2025. <https://spring96.org/ru/news/117084>

⁴ За 2024 год осудили не менее 1 721 человека: результаты уголовного преследования. Вясна, 30.12.2024. <https://spring96.org/ru/news/117063>

persons have been convicted for participating in protests under the charges of gross violation of public order and mass riots.⁵

There are only 1,600 practicing members of the bar association left in Belarus.⁶ There were 2,200 bar members in the country in 2021, and their number has decreased by 27.3% in four years. In 2020-2024, at least 11 Belarusian bar members have been charged in criminal cases, six have been convicted, and at least 139 have been deprived of the right to practice law. Many have been forced to leave the country.

3,152 persons were added to the register of terrorists and extremists in 2024.⁷ This was 72% more than in 2023, which is also a record. 2,232 persons were listed as “terrorists”, 920 as “extremists”, and among them 161 minors were added to the register. Four of them were born in 2010. 89 “extremist groups” appeared in Belarus in 2024.⁸ There are currently 257 “extremist groups” in the country. Courts issued 1,444 decisions recognising information products as “extremist materials”.⁹ There were 888 such decisions in 2023, 637 in 2022, and 3,567 in total since 2008. That is, 40.5% of the total number of decisions since 2008 were made last year. With one decision, the court could recognise several resources as “extremist materials”. Today, there are 6,565 positions in the republican list of “extremist materials”. At least 2,000 persons were convicted of distributing “extremist materials” in 2024.

A large number of citizens of Western countries are kept in custody in Belarus, serving sentences “for cooperation with the security services of foreign countries,” Kanstantsin Bychak, Head of the KGB Investigative Department said on the state television channel.¹⁰ Rygor Nizhnikou, an expert at the *Finnish Institute of International Studies*, believes that Belarus sees the exchange of EU citizens as “potentially the best opportunity” to start a dialogue with the West. According to “*Viasna*” Human Rights Center, after the outbreak of a full-scale war in Ukraine, at least 19 foreigners have been accused of “espionage activity” in Belarus. These are citizens of Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Japan, and Germany.

The pressure on those forced to leave the country has increased.¹¹ Among the practices of transnational repression used by the authorities are trials *in absentia*, threats, pressure on relatives, and persecution for participating in actions abroad. “The authorities seek to stifle any activity of people abroad and silence them. And the louder their voices are, the greater the pressure on them,” “*Viasna*” commented. Experts attributed the tightening of repression to the regime’s preparations for the pseudo-elections on 26 January 2025.

⁵ В Беларуси с 2020 года за участие в протестах осудили как минимум 3277 человек. Настоящее время, 23.01.2025. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/v-belarusi-s-2020-goda-za-uchastie-v-protestah-osudili-minimum-3277-chelovek/33285902.html>

⁶ В Беларуси с 2021 года число адвокатов сократилось на четверть. Настоящее время, 21.01.2025. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/belarus-advokaty/33283747.html>

⁷ В 2024 году в перечень террористов и экстремистов Росфинмониторинга добавили рекордное количество человек — более 3 тысяч. Верстка, 27.12.2024. <https://verstka.media/v-2024-godu-v-perechen-terroristov-i-ekstremistov-rosfinmonitoringa-dobavili-rekordnoe-kolichestvo-chelovek-bolee-3-tysyach>

⁸ В Беларуси за год появилось 89 «экстремистских формирований». Reform.news, 08.01.2025. <https://reform.news/v-belarusi-za-god-pojavilos-89-jekstremistskih-formirovanij>

⁹ Суды приняли 1444 решения об «экстремистских материалах» в 2024 году. Reform.news, 06.01.2025. <https://reform.news/sudy-prinjali-1444-reshenija-ob-jekstremistskih-materialah-v-2024-godu>

¹⁰ РБ создает “обменный фонд”, чтобы начать торг с Западом? DW, 18.12.2024. <https://www.dw.com/ru/v-rb-inostrancev-sazaut-za-spijaz-ctoby-nacat-torg-s-zapadom/a-71095751>

¹¹ “Преследование беларусов вышло за пределы Беларуси”. Как в 2024 режим репрессировал людей в изгнании. Вясна, 26.12.2024. <https://spring96.org/ru/news/117036>

During the second half of 2024 and the beginning of 2025, Aliaksandr Lukashenka pardoned 258 political prisoners.¹² “They all wrote petitions for clemency, confessed their guilt and repented,” the propaganda Telegram channel “Pul Pervogo” reported. Authorities make such actions a condition for release. Traditionally, official media stated that the Belarusian Interior Ministry will “monitor” the behaviour of those pardoned after their release. According to “Viasna” Human Rights Center, as of January 24, 1,253 political prisoners remained in custody. Meanwhile, politically motivated trials continue to be held, and people continue to be convicted and sent to colonies and prisons. The list of political prisoners continues to grow. In total, since the summer of 2020, human rights defenders have recognized almost 3,600 persons as political prisoners, including 656 women. Since then, many of them have already been released, having fully served their sentences.

Closer to “elections” the repression intensified even further. In January 2025, the number of political prisoners in the country increased by 18.¹³ In January, “Viasna” has recorded at least 506 cases of politically motivated repression (detentions, searches, etc.) resulting from criminal and administrative prosecution. Human rights defenders continue to regularly identify, collect and systematize facts of the use of torture and prohibited forms of treatment. There were at least 175 politically motivated sentences and at least 295 politically motivated decisions in administrative cases during that month.

At the time of writing this submission, at least nine political prisoners were held *incommunicado* for periods from a few months to several years. For details, see a section on this subject below.

Latest tendencies in repression

In the last months of 2024 and early 2025, some new trends in repression were noted.

Since the end of October, the Belarusian authorities have changed their tactics in covering the scale of the repression taking place in the country.¹⁴ Telegram channels linked to the security forces no longer publish so-called “repentant” videos featuring detained opponents of the regime. Instead of such videos, the security forces now record “audio” (videos with only the voices of detainees).¹⁵ There are significantly fewer announcements of cases under politically motivated charges in the schedules of court sessions that can be found in the public domain. In addition, those convicted of “political” charges are not given court documents. Several persons who were recently sentenced reported about it. According to lawyers, those convicted are deprived of the opportunity to appeal the court’s decision. For the same reason, political prisoners are not given pens and paper in custody; they are deprived of the opportunity to file complaints. A lawyer can write a complaint instead of the person, but not everyone has a contract with a lawyer before being detained.

Shortly before the elections, preventive checks of “unreliable persons” increased significantly. Many Belarusians were called to the police, human resources departments, and dean’s offices before the “elections” for “preventive conversations”. Similar “conversations” were held at various enterprises and

¹² Лукашенко помиловал ещё 15 заключённых. Радио Свобода, 24.01.2025. <https://www.svoboda.org/a/lukashenko-pomiloval-eschyo-15-zaklyuchyonnyh/33287330.html>

¹³ Более 500 случаев политических репрессий зафиксировали правозащитники за январь. Reform.news, 05.02.2025. <https://reform.news/bolee-500-sluchaev-politicheskikh-repressij-zafiksirovali-pravozashhitniki-za-janvar/amp>

¹⁴ Устные приговоры. Осужденным по «политическим» статьям не выдают судебные документы. Наша Ніва, 09.12.2024. <https://nashaniva.com/ru/357013>

¹⁵ Теперь только голос. Новый «жанр» милицейских видео. Медиазона Беларусь, 16.12.2024. <https://mediazonaby.com/article/2024/12/16/audio>

institutions.¹⁶ All those who were detained in the past under political charges or have other grounds for surveillance applicable to them were being summoned. The nature of “preventive conversations” varies and depends on who conducts them. In most of the cases known, they were formal in nature, but there were also isolated cases of abuse. It is known that the security forces also received orders to visit the homes of “unreliable” citizens. Over few weeks before the “elections”, the police had been visiting these persons and reminding them that they were in the field of view of law enforcement agencies. On January 6, in Homel region those previously convicted on political grounds were summoned to a “preventive conversation” with one of the police departments.¹⁷ After the conversation, an employee of the penal enforcement inspectorate demanded that the former convicts appear for the same “conversation” on January 26, that is, on election day. Some of those present reminded the security officer that on this day they should go to vote. “Well, try to go vote, let’s see how it ends for you. You have already voted in 2020!” the security officer replied. Police officers also visited the homes of Ukrainians, including those who were born in Belarus.¹⁸ They were warned about the inadmissibility of violating political articles of the Administrative and Criminal Codes.

Internet domains that can harm national interests will be cancelled.¹⁹ The relevant changes to the Instructions on registration of domain names in the national domain zone were made by the order of the Operational Analytical Center No. 6 dated January 17. What is meant under “harm to national interests” was not specified. Domains that have been cancelled due to a threat to national interests will be included in the same list as the “extremist” ones.

Work continues to expand the list “list of organizations and individuals involved in terrorist activities”. 17 persons were added there by the KGB in January.²⁰ There are now 1,328 persons and 403 organizations on the list.

The Ministry of Information continues to replenish the list of “extremist materials.”²¹ In late January and early February, a documentary film and a book about the Stalinist repressions were included in it. Maryja Bulavinskaya’s documentary “The Forest”, released in September 2024, was about the executions carried out by the NKVD in the 1930s in the Navabelitski forest near Homel. The book by journalist Marat Haravy, “The NKVD executed people in Kurapaty...”, released in 2019, also recognized as “extremist”, included 17 essays about the tragedy in Kurapaty, as well as more than 100 photographs and drawings. According to experts, the topic of Stalinist repressions in Belarus has been tabooed since Aliaksandr Lukashenka came to power.

Checks at the border are being tightened, as well as the checkpoint regime in general.

¹⁶ Беларусов вызываюу в милицию, отделы кадров, деканаты перед «выборами». Reform.news, 17.01.2025. <https://reform.news/belarusov-vyzyvajut-v-miliciju-otdely-kadrov-dekanaty-pered-vyborami>

¹⁷ «Вы свое уже отголосовали в 2020 году». На Гомельщине экс-политзаключенных в день выборов приглашают в милицию. Зеркало, 08.01.2025. <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/87862.html?c>

¹⁸ Милиция в Гомельской области стала ходить по квартирам украинцев. Флагшток — Гомельщина, 18.01.2025. <https://t.me/flagshotok/12629>

¹⁹ В Беларуси будут аннулировать домены, способные причинить вред национальным интересам. Беларуская асацыяцыя журналістаў, 22.01.2025. <https://baj.media/be/v-belarusi-budut-annulirovat-domeny/>

²⁰ КГБ добавил 17 человек в список «террористов», включив туда и профсоюзную активистку «Нафтана» Бритикову. Зеркало, 23.01.2025. <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/89249.html?c>

²¹ Исследование сталинских репрессий в РБ теперь “экстремизм”? DW, 13.02.2025. <https://www.dw.com/ru/v-rb-issledovanie-stalinskih-repressij-priravnali-k-ekstremizmu/a-71592786>

Several days before the “elections”, mass arrests of truck drivers were carried out at the border. At least 20 truck drivers were detained by Belarusian border guards while the drivers were crossing the border.²² Their phones were checked in pursue of “likes”, comments and subscriptions to “extremist” channels. According to a representative of the cargo transportation company, even a VPN downloaded to your phone could be a reason for detention. The inspections and arrests began at the end of 2024.

Increased checks on Belarusians who cross the border to leave the country were reported.²³ The main “innovation” is that inspections now take place on the way out of the country, in addition to standard scrupulous checks on the way into Belarus. Security forces check phones and laptops. “The security forces have good enough tools to connect to “cloud” storage and recover deleted files and data,” the head of the *BYSOL* foundation, Andrei Stryzhak, warned. He added that additional questions may be asked during the “conversation” at the border. For example, security officers may ask you what kind of visa you have, how you got it, and who helped you. The security forces may target “the same groups that they were interested in while checking those entering the country.” In this case, Belarusians who participated in protests in 2020 and were involved in “political” cases, can be included in the “Besporiyadki” (“Disorders”) database, as well as those who had their homes searched, may be subjected to in-depth checks and “conversations”. Close attention is also paid to Ukrainians who live in Belarus and their relatives. Another category that has recently become of interest to the KGB officers on duty at the border is Belarusians who have not been to the country for a long time and decided to visit it.

Belarusians with a second citizenship are no longer allowed to enter the country on foreign documents.²⁴ Previously, those with two nationalities could choose which passport to use to enter Belarus. They used this opportunity to cross the border on their cars with European registration and register temporary import on them, like other foreigners do. This was convenient, because if they would enter using a Belarusian passport, they would have to leave a financial guarantee for the EU registered car, which constituted 100% of the amount of the car customs clearance. Now the practice has changed. About a month ago, the border guards were sent instructions for internal use, which forbids persons with Belarusian citizenship to pass through the border with a passport other than the Belarusian one.

The authorities are preparing the ground for pressuring people who hold oppositional views, using their children as leverage. Since the beginning of 2025, it has become easier for guardianship authorities to take a child away from them.²⁵ Now this can be done not only to families in which a parent has been convicted under a criminal charge related to participation in protests or “extremism,” but also to those who have been held accountable under an administrative charge of distributing extremist materials under Art. 19.11 of the Code of Administrative Violations – for example, if a person posted a link to any non-governmental organization banned in Belarus, published a photo with a banned logo on social networks, liked a post on the page of an “extremist” friend, or left a comment in an “extremist” public group. Such a possibility was provided for in the resolution of the Government of Belarus dated December 30, 2024 No. 1055 “On the recognition of children as being in a socially dangerous situation and in need of state

²² «Если находят в телефоне VPN — отправляют на сутки». На границе стали задерживать дальнобойщиков. MOST, 20.01.2025.

²³ «У силовиков достаточно хороший инструментарий». Что известно об усиленных проверках на выезде из Беларуси — узнали подробности. Зеркало, 05.02.2025. <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/90501.html?c>

²⁴ Белорусов со вторым гражданством перестали пропускать в страну по иностранным документам/ Наша Ніва, 10.02.2025. <https://nashaniva.com/ru/361344>

²⁵ “Социально опасны”. Как в Беларуси присваивают этот статус семьям, где родители выступают против Лукашенко, чтобы отобрать детей. Настоящее время, 13.01.2025. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/sotsialno-opasny-kak-v-belarusi-prisvaivayut-etot-status-semyam-gde-roditeli-vystupayut-protiv-lukashenko-chtoby-otobrat-detey/33266321.html>

protection.”²⁶ A family of a person “who has been held accountable and/or released from administrative responsibility” receives the status of being in a “socially dangerous situation,” which means that it is under a strict supervision by the authorities. Children from such families can be sent to orphanages, and their parents may be deprived of parental rights, in case the authorities will decide this will benefit the child. Previously, the status of a “family being in a socially dangerous situation” was mainly given to families where parents abused alcohol or did not work and where there was a reason to believe that there was a real threat to the life and health of the child.

On February 17, Aliaksandr Lukashenka signed the law “On Amendments to the Codes of Criminal Responsibility”. Pavel Sapelka, a lawyer at “*Viasna*” Human Rights Center, noted that the list of articles on which a person can be tried *in absentia* was significantly expanded and included such charges as inciting discord, discrediting the Republic of Belarus, insulting the president and a government official, an act of terrorism, abuse of state symbols, and disclosure of state secrets.²⁷ “This creates opportunities for new large-scale repression. More than 3,500 people have already been convicted under the listed charges,” he noted. According to another important amendment, “a special procedure” can be applied in other cases by a decision of the Prosecutor General, the Chair of the Investigative Committee or the KGB, which means that a trial *in absentia* can be held for any crime.

***Incommunicado* detention**

According to human rights NGOs, at least nine persons (Viktar Babaryka, Ihar Losik, Maryja Kalesnikava, Maxim Znak, Mikalai Statkevich, Siarhei Tsikhanouski, Uladzimir Hundar, Yauhen Afnahel, and Palina Sharenda-Panasyuk) were held *incommunicado* for a considerable period of time. No official information about their condition has been known for almost two years since February 2023. In particular, there was no news for 700 days from Siarhei Tsikhanousky²⁸ and Mikalai Statkevich²⁹, while Maryja Kalesnikava remained *incommunicado* for more than 600 days and was returned from a cell-type camera to a squad in the colony only at the end of 2024.³⁰ Only occasional testimonies by other prisoners released from these colonies became available – but no official information or first-hand evidence by relatives, lawyers, independent doctors or international observers. It is very likely that several other imprisoned regime critics are also held *incommunicado* in prison but their relatives do not disclose this information out of fear of retribution. The word “*incommunicado*” became the main Belarusian word in 2024.³¹

In the months leading up to the January 2025 presidential elections, the Lukashenka regime took unprecedented measures designed to demonstrate its willingness to use the “card” of improving the situation of political prisoners in negotiations with the West with a declared goal of obtaining a lifting of international sanctions and recognition of the legitimacy of the election results. In November 2024, propagandist Raman Pratasevich demonstrated photos of a meeting between Maryja Kalesnikava and her

²⁶ Становішча дзяцей рэпрэсаваных бацькоў могуць прызнаць сацыяльна небяспечным і забраць зь сям’і. Радыё Свабода, 02.01.2025. <https://www.svaboda.org/a/33261026.html>

²⁷ В Беларуси может стать еще больше заочных судов за политику. DW, 30.01.2025. <https://www.dw.com/ru/v-belarusi-mozet-stat-ese-bolse-zaocnyh-sudov-za-politiku/a-71449257>

²⁸ 700 дней нет вестей от Сергея Тихановского. Позірк, 06.02.2025. <https://pozirk.online/ru/news/125135/>

²⁹ 700 дней изоляции: что происходит с Николаем Статкевичем. DW, 09.01.2025. <https://www.dw.com/ru/700-dnej-neizvestnosti-cto-proishodit-s-nikolaem-statkevichem/a-71212988>

³⁰ «Теперь она не изолирована». Появились новости о Марии Колесниковой. Зеркало, 07.02.2025. <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/90749.html?c>

³¹ Тихановская: «Более 640 дней я не могу узнать о судьбе моего мужа». Belsat, 10.12.2024. <https://ru.belsat.eu/83917114/tihanovskaya-bolee-640-dnej-ya-ne-mogu-uznat-o-sudbe-moego-muzha>

father in a prison hospital,³² while in January 2025, interviews with Viktor Babaryka³³ and Ihar Losik³⁴ were broadcasted in the state media. The prisoners' relatives and the general public, including the international one, this way got informed that Maryja Kalesnikava, Viktor Babaryka and Ihar Losik were alive. However, it should be noted that Viktor Babaryka and Ihar Losik have not received the opportunity to communicate with relatives, lawyers and doctors, and there was no further information about their whereabouts and health condition. Therefore, it cannot be claimed that their incommunicado detention came to an end. The only political prisoner held incommunicado for a long time who was actually released and able to leave the country was Palina Sharenda-Panasyuk.³⁵

Changing the conditions of the regime of imprisonment and other ways to worsen the conditions of detention of political prisoners

In the opinion of the authorities, the deprivation of liberty is not in itself sufficient punishment for political prisoners for their disagreement with the regime and opposition to it. They are constantly subjected to various types of pressure, including torture, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Political prisoner Mikalai Autukhovich, who was sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment in a high-security colony, was repeatedly sent to a punishment cell (while the reasons for the punishment remain unknown); last time this happened before the New Year.³⁶ This became known from his letters home in which Autukhovich sarcastically calls a punishment cell a "sanatorium." The medical package that the relatives sent to Autukhovich in December did not reach the recipient and was returned. Recently, his family sent him a new parcel with medicines. According to the information from Autukhovich, his legs began to swell from the disease; he needs special medications. In November 2024, he informed his family that he had spent 21 days in a punishment cell, where he received only occasional medical help, and it was very cold in his cell. He also said that his blood pressure monitor was taken away from him, although he had permission to use it. After that time in a punishment cell, he wrote that "if something happened to him, it was done on purpose."

Palina Sharenda-Panasyuk, former political prisoner who had recently left Belarus after fully serving her several prison terms, called the conditions of detention in colony No. 24, where she served her sentence, torture.³⁷ According to her calculations, in 2023 she was only able to go outside of colony buildings for eight days. She was sent to a punishment cell and a cell-type room, the regime of detention in which does not involve outdoor walks, all the time. Other female political prisoners in this colony, such as Alena Hnauk, Volha Mayorava, Victoryja Kulsha, were kept in the same terrible conditions and are routinely subjected to both physical and psychological torture. Journalist Katsyaryna Andreeva was severely beaten

³² Мария Колесникова встретилась с отцом. С белорусской политзаключенной не было связи полтора года. BBC News Русская служба, 12 ноября 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/russian/articles/cy4nxe3jylo>

³³ Belarus Review by iSANS — January 13, 2025. <https://isans.org/analysis/belarus-review/belarus-review-by-isans-january-13-2025.html>

³⁴ Belarus Review by iSANS — January 20, 2025. <https://isans.org/analysis/belarus-review/belarus-review-by-isans-january-20-2025.html>

³⁵ Полина Шарендо-Панасюк: "Это как воскрешение из мертвых". Deutsche welle, 06.02.2025. <https://www.1deutschewelle.de/ru/eto-kak-voskresenie-iz-mertvyh-polina-sarendopanasuk-na-svobode/a-71531737?maca=rus-RED-dwelle>

³⁶ Николая Автуховича отправили в ШИЗО перед Новым годом. Хартия'97, 7.01.2025. <https://dztb4u-c97-org.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/dztb4u.c97.org/ru/news/2025/1/7/625226/>

³⁷ Полина Шарендо-Панасюк: "Это как воскрешение из мертвых". Deutsche welle, 06.02.2025. <https://www.1deutschewelle.de/ru/eto-kak-voskresenie-iz-mertvyh-polina-sarendopanasuk-na-svobode/a-71531737?maca=rus-RED-dwelle>

by servicemen Chorny, Gancharou, Alekhin and Zyuzin.³⁸ Victoryja Kulsha’s situation is the worst and she may die in custody, Sharendo-Panasyuk feared. Palina called the correctional colony No. 24 nothing but a knacker’s yard, and the penitentiary system – the Belarusian Gulag. She confirmed that political prisoners released under presidential pardon are being forced to sign documents on secret cooperation with the Belarusian special services.³⁹ She herself was forced to sign such a document. The document stated that she promised to report on the sentiments of the convicts and transmit other information to the authorities. She also said that political prisoners are also being forced to write petitions for clemency. “They start torturing, torturing, torturing a person. And at some point, they offer to write a petition for clemency. If the person doesn’t give up, they will continue to torture him,” she said. When the person does decide to ask for clemency, they can record a propagandistic interview with him.

Another way to toughen the prisoner’s situation is to transfer him from the colony to the prison regime. Such transfers require an official decision by a court and have been happening more and more frequently in the recent months. Over the past three months, human rights defenders have received information about two such cases. On December 11, the Ivatsevichi district court considered a submission from the colony administration “on transfer to a correctional institution of a different type and changing the conditions of the regime” in relation to political prisoner, military analyst Yahor Lyabedok.⁴⁰ A sentence of political prisoner Aliaksei Reznikau, who is serving four and a half years of imprisonment, was toughened on January 22.⁴¹ In August 2022, Reznikau was sentenced for posts and reposts on VKontakte social network. Reznikau worked abroad, but returned home due to his mother’s serious health condition. He was detained, and three days later his mother died. In 2022, he was added to the KGB’s “terrorist list”. Dzmitry Paznyakou, an ex-lecturer at the military faculty of Belarusian State University, who was sentenced in November 2023 to 19 years of imprisonment for high treason, may be transferred to prison regime.⁴² The trial to replace the punishment regime was scheduled for February 14 in Navapalotsk. Its results are yet unknown.

Repeated arrests and convictions

Expanding repression, the authorities came up with a way not to release political prisoners when their sentences end. They are being given a new prison term for “malicious disobedience to the demands of the colony administration.” This tool was used for the first time back in 2012, when leader of the “Young Front” opposition movement Zmitser Dashkevich was convicted under these charges for an additional year of imprisonment before the end of his term. In 2024, this practice became widespread. At least 45 prisoners have already been convicted this way for an additional term since 2020, some even twice, and two women, Palina Sharenda-Panasyuk and Victoria Kulsha, were tried under this charge three times.

³⁸ На пресс-конференции в Вильнюсе Полина Шаренда-Панасюк поделилась подробностями о тяжёлых условиях, в которых находятся белорусские политзаключённые. NEXTA, 10.02.2025.

https://by.tgstat.com/en/channel/@nexta_tv/25573

³⁹ Шарендо-Панасюк: Освобождаемых политзаключённых заставляют подписать соглашения о сотрудничестве.

Reform.news, 10.02.2025. <https://reform.news/sharendo-panasjuk-osvobozhdaemyh-politzakljuchennyh-zastavlajjut-podpisat-soglashenija-o-sotrudnichestve>

⁴⁰ Военному аналитику Егору Лебедку собираются ужесточить наказание. Зеркало, 04.12.2024. <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/85159.html?c>

⁴¹ Политзаключённому, вернувшемуся из-за границы, ужесточат наказание. Reform.news, 22.01.2025.

<https://reform.news/politzakljuchennomu-vernuvshemusja-iz-za-granicy-uzhestochat-nakazanie>

⁴² Преподавателю военного факультета БрГУ, осужденному по статье о госизмене, собираются ужесточить наказание.

Reform.news, 03.02.2025. <https://reform.news/prepodavatelju-voennogo-fakulteta-bgu-osuzhdennomu-po-state-o-gosizmene-sobirajutsja-uzhestochit-nakazanie>

In the course of last three months it became known that:

- Political prisoner Eduard Babaryka was tried once again for alleged “malicious disobedience to the colony administration”.⁴³ He has been in custody for more than four and a half years, but he continues to receive additional sentences. His first sentence was eight years of imprisonment in high-security colony. In July 2024, another year and a half was added to this term on charges of malicious disobedience to the colony administration. To serve his sentence, he was transferred to Valkavysk colony No. 11, where in less than six months a new case was opened against him again under the same charge. The trial began on February 20 in the Valkavysk district court. In the case of a new conviction, his sentence may be extended by another two years;
- Political prisoner Mikita Emelianau, who has been in custody for more than five years, will be tried again.⁴⁴ In 2020, he was sentenced to seven years in a high-security colony, but later the court of appeal reduced the sentence to four years. In May 2021, Emelianau was transferred to a prison regime. The prison administration initiated a criminal case against him on charges of malicious disobedience to the demands of the colony administration. In March 2022, he was sentenced to two more years of imprisonment and sent to serve his sentence in Valkavysk colony No. 11, where he continued to be placed in a punishment cell. A year later, in March 2023, the Valkavysk district court again decided to transfer Mikita to a prison regime. He was placed in the Hrodna prison No. 1;
- Aliaksandr Frantskevich will be tried again for malicious disobedience to the administration of the colony on February 27.⁴⁵ Six months ago, he was already sentenced to a year of imprisonment under this charge. He was held *incommunicado* for several months. In September 2022, Frantskevich was sentenced to 17 years of imprisonment in a high-security colony and a fine of 700 basic units (22,400 Belarusian rubles or more than 6.5 thousand Euro). On appeal, the term was reduced by three months;
- Vasil Dzemidovich, a 72-year-old pensioner from Nyasvizh, is being prosecuted for insulting a government official.⁴⁶ This is his ninth trial. It began on February 20 in the Smalyavichi district court. In September 2022, the Leninski district court of Hrodna sentenced him to six years in a high-security colony, a fine and compensation in the amount of almost 33 thousand Belarusian rubles (around 9.6 thousand Euro) for “organizing mass riots” and “insulting” Lukashenka, a government official and a judge. Later, Dzemidovich was sentenced to another six months of imprisonment for “insulting” a government official. In May 2023, he was again sentenced to two and a half years in a high-security colony for “insulting” a government official and a judge. In total, Dzemidovich was sentenced to seven years of imprisonment. The outcome of the last three trials is unknown. Dzemidovich has been in custody for almost three years. Since he was included in the list of “terrorists”, it is prohibited to send him money transfers.

⁴³ Эдуарда Бабарико снова будут судить. Хартия’97, 8.02.2025.

https://charter97.org/ru/news/2025/2/8/629105/#google_vignette

⁴⁴ Политзаключенного Никиту Емельянова снова будут судить. Хартия’97, 10.01.2025.

<https://charter97.org/ru/news/2025/1/10/625565/>

⁴⁵ Анархиста Францкевича второй раз за год будут судить за «неповиновение администрации колонии». Наша Ніва, 14.02.2025, <https://nashaniva.com/ru/361690>

⁴⁶ В Беларуси пенсионера Василия Демидовича обвиняют в оскорблении представителя власти. Это будет его девятый суд. Настоящее время, 13.02.2025. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/v-belarusi-pensionera-demidovicha-obvinyayut-v-oskorblenii-predstavatelya-vlasti-eto-devyatyy-sud/33313425.html>

When political prisoners do manage to be released, including by pardon, they become victims of repeated arrests.

In November and December, mass arrests of ex-political prisoners, as well as relatives and friends of political prisoners for receiving “foreign aid” took place throughout Belarus.⁴⁷ KGB officers conducted searches and interrogations, and protocols were drawn up against some of the detainees for “receiving foreign aid to carry out extremist activities”. Some administrative cases were considered by courts in December, while other trials were held in January 2025. It is known that several persons were transferred to pre-trial detention centers within the framework of criminal cases against them.

On December 5, a trial of former political prisoner Homel videographer Andrei Tolchyn, who was released on pardon on September 16, 2024, took place in the court of the Savetski district of Homel.⁴⁸ The exact verdict is still unknown, but it is assumed that he is under arrest on charges of distributing extremist materials.

Two more cases of detention of former political prisoners released on a pardon in 2024 are known.⁴⁹ One of them was detained a month after his release for refusing to cooperate with “certain government structures.” He is currently in a pretrial detention center. In another case, a political prisoner had spent three years in prison for participating in protests and was released after the end of his term. He stayed in Belarus to help his sick parents. According to his friend, the police kept coming to him “for any reason,” he was taken for interrogations, and his phone was checked. After a while, he was detained and charged with promoting extremism. He is currently in a pretrial detention center.

Repeated arrests and convictions are an effective mechanism of intimidation, as they deprive a person of any hope that the persecution will finally come to an end someday. On December 10, Sviatlana Krutsikava from Pinsk district committed suicide by throwing herself in front of a train.⁵⁰ She was tried several times on “extremist” charges and arrested. The last trial was held on November 6 under an administrative charge of the distribution of “extremist materials.” Sviatlana’s friends believe that she could not withstand searches, detentions, inspections, and psychological pressure from the police. They note that the woman had no other reasons for suicide — she was active and cheerful. “The regime destroys people not only in prisons. It destroys health – both physical and mental – by bullying, threats of persecution, and endless manipulations. At some point, even the hardened hearts of Belarusians cannot stand it,” Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya wrote in this regard.

The repetition of punishment for the same “crime” concerns not only imprisonment. Those persecuted for donating money to “extremist” organizations are forced to repeatedly “compensate for the damage”.⁵¹ Pressure is exerted by the Department of Financial Investigations and the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The servicemen demand

⁴⁷ Беларусов снова судят за получение “иностранной помощи”. Вясна, 27.12.2024. <https://spring96.org/ru/news/117045>

⁴⁸ Бывшего политзаключенного Андрея Толчина, которого освободили по помилованию, вновь арестовали. Reform.news, 06.12.2024. <https://reform.news/byvshego-politzakljuchennogo-andreja-tolchina-vnov-arestovali>

⁴⁹ Экс-политзаключенного задержали после помилования — СМИ. Reform.news, 05.12.2024. <https://reform.news/jeks-politzakljuchennogo-zaderzhali-posle-pomilovaniija-smi>

⁵⁰ Светлана Тихановская о самоубийстве Светланы Крутиковой: Режим уничтожает людей не только в тюрьмах. Reform.news, 11.12.2024. <https://reform.news/svetlana-tihanovskaja-o-samoubijstve-svetlany-krutikovoj-rezhim-unichtozhaet-ljudej-ne-tolko-v-tjurmah>

⁵¹ Лукашисты снова занялись беззастенчивым грабежом и вымогательством. NEXTA, 25.12.2024. https://by.tgstat.com/channel/@nexta_tv/25423

people to “compensate” their crimes by making additional payments, despite the fact that they have previously paid to the KGB. “*Viasna*” Human Rights Center reports that some of these people are being summoned to the prosecutor’s office to sign documents “before the elections”. Those who have left Belarus also receive summonses. Since 2023, those who actively donated have been called to the KGB with demands to make “voluntary” donations and threatened with criminal charges. A “pay off” by transferring money to a certain account identified by the authorities is, however, not a legal procedure and does not exclude the re-opening of a criminal case.

Special proceedings and in absentia trials

Special proceedings with regard to exiled opponents of the regime and trials *in absentia* became a widespread practice in 2024, though the law that allows Belarusians living abroad to be tried *in absentia*, including sentencing them to death, exists since July 2022. Before the introduction of the recent legislative changes mentioned above, the norm applied to those tried on charges of an act of terrorism, genocide, mercenary activities, treason, sabotage, creation of an extremist formation or participation in it, participation in mass riots and making calls for sanctions. It took the punitive machine some time to accelerate, and now we hear about *in absentia* trials almost every week. In the last three months it became known about the following cases:

- On December 2, representatives of the Minsk startup hub *Imaguru* were sentenced by the Minsk City Court.⁵² Their trial began on September 2 and lasted for three months. Tattiana Marynich and Anastasia Khamyankova were convicted *in absentia*, while Yauhen Pugach was tried in person as he has been in custody since July 2023. 10 charges were brought against Marynich and Khamyankova: conspiracy or other actions committed to seize state power; calls for restrictive measures (sanctions) or other actions aimed at harming the national security of the Republic of Belarus; tax evasion; abuse of power or official authority; discrediting of the Republic of Belarus; promotion of extremist activities; incitement of racial, national, religious or other social hostility or discord; participation in an armed formation or armed conflict, military operations on the territory of a foreign state, recruitment or training of persons for such participation; financing of extremist activities; and creation of an extremist formation or participation in it. Tattiana Marynich was sentenced *in absentia* to 12 years of imprisonment, as well as a fine of 280 thousand rubles (more than 81,000 Euro). Anastasia Khamyankova was sentenced *in absentia* to 11 years of imprisonment, as well as a fine of 280 thousand rubles (more than 81,000 Euro). Both women were deprived of the right to hold positions related to the performance of organizational, administrative, and economic work for five years. Yauhen Pugach was sentenced to four and a half years of imprisonment, as well as a fine of 20 thousand rubles (5,800 Euro). He was also deprived of the right to hold positions related to the performance of organizational, administrative, and economic work for five years. He was found guilty of calling for restrictive measures (sanctions), other actions aimed at harming the national security of the Republic of Belarus, and tax evasion;
- At the end of December, the Minsk City Court sentenced Vyachaslau (Slava) Kamisarenka, one of the most famous Belarusian stand-up artists, to six years of imprisonment *in absentia*.⁵³ After the

⁵² Вынесен заочный приговор создательницам стартап-хаба «Имагуру». Reform.news, 03.12.2024.

Источник: <https://reform.news/vynesen-zaochnyj-prigovor-sozdatelnicam-sartap-haba-imaguru>

⁵³ Суд в Минске заочно приговорил комика Славу Комиссаренко к шести годам колонии по делу об оскорблении Лукашенко. Meduza, 30.12.2024. <https://meduza.io/news/2024/12/30/sud-v-minske-zaочно-prigovoril-komika-slavu-komissarenko-k-shesti-godam-kolonii-po-delu-ob-oskorblenii-lukashenko>

protests in Belarus in 2020, he repeatedly spoke out against the violence that the security forces used against the protesters and the falsification of the presidential election results, as well as parodied Aliaksandr Lukashenka. Kamisarenka was found guilty of inciting racial, ethnic, and religious hatred, slandering Lukashenka, and insulting Lukashenka. Later the KGB added him to the list of “terrorists”;⁵⁴

- Co-founder and head of the *BYSOL* charitable foundation, human rights activist Andrei Stryzhak, and co-founder and head of the *BYHELP* Foundation Alyaksei Lyavonchyk will be tried *in absentia*.⁵⁵ The Investigative Committee opened special proceedings in their regard. 17 charges were brought against them: creating an extremist formation, financing extremist activities, facilitating extremist activities, insulting a government representative, insulting and slandering Lukashenka, inciting racial, national or religious hatred, propaganda of terrorism, and other. It was emphasized that “these crimes were committed as part of an organized group”;
- The Investigative Committee announced the start of special proceedings against five soldiers of the Kalinovsky Regiment fighting on Ukraine’s side.⁵⁶ They were all invited to come to the Investigative Committee;
- The Investigative Committee has launched special proceedings against nine persons.⁵⁷ Among them is businessman Vadzim Prakopyeu, who has already been tried *in absentia* twice. This time, he is accused of creating an extremist formation, participating in an armed formation on the territory of a foreign state, recruiting and training persons for such participation, facilitating extremist activities, and undergoing training to participate in extremist activities. Special proceedings have also begun in relation to Aliaksei Manchynsky, Raman Yaromenka, Pavel Kakhnovich, Tsikhan Klyukach, Yaugen Karankevich, Aliaksandr Piatrouski, Yaugen Salokhin, and Yahor Ispenkou;
- The Investigative Committee reported that it had identified 365 participants of Belarusian protest actions conducted on January 26 against the “elections” of Lukashenka in different countries of the world.⁵⁸ The Investigative Committee said that 581 person took part in these actions in different cities of Poland, as well as in other countries. The authorities managed to identify 203 persons in Warsaw, 11 in Wroclaw, 18 in Bialystok, 29 in Vilnius, 39 in New York, 11 in Prague, and others based on photos posted on the Internet. The authorities threatened these persons with prosecution *in absentia* and promised their property and real estate will be taken away;
- The Belarusian apartment of ex-political prisoner, blogger Vadimati (Vadzim Yermashuk), who now lives in Poland, was searched in relation with his participation in the Warsaw march on January 26 against the “elections” of Lukashenka.⁵⁹ He posted stories from the event on his social media. Yermashuk was released on June 29, 2024, having fully served a three-year imprisonment term for

⁵⁴ КГБ внес комика Славу Комиссаренко в список “террористов”. Еврорадио, 04.02.2025. <https://euroradio.fm/ru/kgb-vnes-komika-slavu-komissarenko-v-spisok-terroristov>

⁵⁵ В Беларуси будут заочно судить Стрижака и Леончика. Еврорадио, 06.12.2024. <https://euroradio.fm/ru/v-belarusi-budut-zaочно-sudit-strizhaka-i-leonchika>

⁵⁶ СК объявил спецпроизводство в отношении пяти человек. Reform.news, 10.12.2024. <https://reform.news/sk-objavil-spesproizvodstvo-v-otnoshenii-pjati-chelovek>

⁵⁷ В отношении Прокопьева и 8 «калиновцев» начато спецпроизводство. Reform.news, 13.12.2024. <https://reform.news/v-otnoshenii-prokopjeva-i-8-kalinovcev-nachato-spesproizvodstvo>

⁵⁸ СК заявляет, что идентифицировал 365 участников белорусских акций за рубежом. Еврорадио, 27.01.2025. <https://euroradio.fm/ru/sk-zayavlyaet-что-identificiroval-365-uchastnikov-belorusskikh-akcii-za-rubezhom>

⁵⁹ Силовики провели обыск в квартире блогера Vadimati. Belsat, 28.01.2025. <https://ru.belsat.eu/84737728/siloviki-proveli-obysk-v-kvartire-blogera-vadimati>

the “abuse of state symbols” and “insulting Lukashenka.” Yermashuk’s Instagram page was recognized as “extremist materials,” after which he left the country. Earlier, Yermashuk reported that his apartment in Hrodna was arrested by the order of the investigator;

- A criminal case was opened against Ihar Sluchak, a civic activist and a popularizer of the Belarusian language.⁶⁰ He was accused of “facilitating extremist activities.” The case was initiated on May 22, 2024. On December 24, the materials on the case were transferred to the Ragachouski district department of the Investigative Committee. In the fall of 2023, Sluchak, along with his wife and two children, was evacuated from Belarus with the help of the *BySol* solidarity fund, but continued to be involved in activism. Therefore, the proceedings will be held *in absentia*;
- On December 27, the trial in absentia of the head of Belaruski Gajun project, blogger and activist Anton Matolka began in the Hrodna Regional Court.⁶¹ He is charged with conspiracy to seize state power by unconstitutional means; organization of mass riots; organization of group actions that grossly violate public order; incitement of social hostility and discord; public calls for restrictive measures (sanctions), other actions aimed at harming the national security of the Republic of Belarus; threat of violence, slander and public insult of the President of the Republic of Belarus; discrediting the Republic of Belarus; creating and leading an extremist group; financing extremist activities; and high treason;
- The Minsk City Court sentenced Pavel Daneyka, an economist and administrative director of the *BEROC* research center, to 12 years of imprisonment *in absentia*.⁶² He was found guilty of conspiracy to seize power, creating or participating in an extremist group, as well as organizing and managing business activities without special permission. The court also fined him 546,000 Belarusian rubles (approximately 160 thousand Euro). According to the prosecution, Daneyka joined the Coordination Council in August 2020 and “as a member of it, took assertive actions to achieve the goals of an unconstitutional seizure of state power.”

This section does not list all the cases of special proceedings and in absentia trials that have become known in the last three months. Some are mentioned below, in the section on harassment of media workers.

The most frequently persecuted categories of persons

Despite the fact that repression is widespread in Belarus and affects all categories of citizens, there are a number of professions that put people in the most vulnerable position.

Media workers and bloggers

In 2023-2024, 759 attacks/threats were recorded against professional and civil media and editorial offices of traditional and online media.⁶³ A special report prepared by the *Justice for Journalists* foundation and

⁶⁰ Завели уголовное дело на Игоря Случака. Наша Ніва, 30.01.2025. <https://nashaniva.com/ru/360600>

⁶¹ Сегодня начинают заочно судить Антона Мотолько. Reform.news, 27.12.2024. <https://reform.news/segodnja-nachinajut-zaочно-sudit-antona-motolko>

⁶² В Беларуси суд заочно приговорил экономиста Павла Данейко к 12 годам колонии по делу о заговоре с целью захвата власти. Настоящее время, 03.02.2025. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/belarus-dayneko/33301224.html>

⁶³ Attacks on media workers in Belarus in 2023-2024. Report. Justice for Journalists Foundation, 05.02.2025. <https://jfy.fund/attacks-on-media-workers-in-belarus-in-2023-2024/>

the *Belarusian Association of Journalists* noted that 41 media workers are currently held behind bars in Belarus. Starting from the end of 2023, the authorities have been taking away local Internet domains from non-governmental media, which leads to a loss of audience. According to the *Belarusian Association of Journalists*, about 400 journalists have left Belarus since 2020. The rest are working underground or have changed their profession.

In the course of last three months:

- The verdict in the case of the Pinsk journalist Yavhen Mikalaevich, who returned to Belarus from abroad and was detained, has become known.⁶⁴ In early October, a court in Pinsk found him guilty of “organizing and preparing actions that grossly violate public order, or actively participating in them.” He was sentenced to one and a half years of imprisonment. In 2020, Mikalaevich, as a video correspondent for *Media Polesie*, covered the protests against the falsification of the presidential election results. He was detained several times, although he did not take direct part in the protests, but only took photos and videos on editorial assignment. Mikalaevich’s name has appeared on the list of people involved in extremist activities;
- On November 29, political prisoner Dzmitry Kazlou, a YouTube blogger known as the “Grey Cat”, was tried again.⁶⁵ His new case was heard by the court of the Babruisk district and Babruisk. At the end of November, Kazlou was supposed to be released after four and a half years of imprisonment. However, he was accused of “malicious disobedience to the requirements of the administration of the correctional institution”. The details of the verdict are still unknown;
- The owner of the Hrodna website s13.ru Siarhei Chabotka was not released after the third term of administrative arrest.⁶⁶ He was supposed to be released on December 7. On October 25, the website s13.ru, dedicated to the news of Hrodna and the region, was recognized as “extremist materials”. On the same day, Chabotka was tried and sentenced to 15 days of arrest. The second trial took place on November 6. On November 22, Chabotka again received 15 days of arrest;
- In early December, mass arrests took place in Baranavichi in the case of the closed *Intex-Press* newspaper.⁶⁷ Seven persons were detained on charges of facilitating extremist activities, “*Viasna|Brest*” wrote. The editorial office of the *Intex-Press* faced pressure after the 2020 elections. It was searched, its equipment was seized, and its website was blocked. The journalists of the media outlet were detained. In 2022, the newspaper was deprived of state registration. In April 2023, the *Intex-Press* website and social networks were recognized as “extremist materials”;

⁶⁴ Стал известен приговор пинскому журналисту Евгению Николаевичу, который вернулся в Беларусь. Наша Ніва, 19.12.2024. <https://nashaniva.com/ru/357711>

⁶⁵ Блогера "Серого кота", который должен был выйти на свободу, снова осудили. Еврорадио, 04.12.2024. <https://euroradio.fm/ru/blogera-serogo-kota-kotoryy-dolzhen-byl-vyyti-na-svobodu-snova-osudili>

⁶⁶ Владелец s13.ru не вышел на свободу после третьего административного ареста. Reform.news, 09.12.2024. <https://reform.news/vladelec-s13-ru-ne-vyshel-na-svobodu-posle-tretego-administrativnogo-aresta>

⁶⁷ В Барановичах прошли задержания по делу закрытой газеты Intex-Press — правозащитники. Reform.news, 12.12.2024. <https://reform.news/v-baranovichah-proshli-zaderzhanija-po-delu-zakrytoj-gazety-intex-press-pravozashitniki>

- Journalist Ihar Karney, who was sentenced to three years of imprisonment, was sentenced to another eight months of imprisonment for disobeying the requirements of the colony administration.⁶⁸ It is not known for what violations Karney was charged. He was sent to a cell-type room several times;
- The Investigative Committee launched special proceedings against the blogger, a member of the Coordination Council Siarhei Beshpalau.⁶⁹ He is accused of inciting discord, slander, mass riots, violation of public order, conspiracy to seize power, calls for sanctions, creation of an extremist formation, slander against Lukashenka, insulting Lukashenka, and discrediting Belarus;
- Photos of Vitsebsk journalists Alena Shabuni, Aliaksandr Kornyshau and human rights activist Pavel Levinau appeared on the police stands in the list of persons who are wanted “for committing crimes”.⁷⁰ From the information posted near the photo of Alena Shabuni, it follows that she is accused of “calling for actions aimed at harming the national security”. Judging by the caption to the photo of Levinau, who has repeatedly helped independent journalists with legal advice, he is accused of “organizing and preparing actions that violate public order”. Aliaksandr Kornyshau’s photo contains only his passport data, however, it can be assumed that a criminal case was opened against him for involvement in “extremist” activities – on May 10, 2024, the *European Choice* coalition was declared an “extremist formation”, and the name of Aliaksandr Kornyshau appeared on the list of persons who belonged to it. He also reported that during repeated searches of his parents’ apartment, representatives of law enforcement bodies were particularly interested in his editorial activities and the details of an interview that was aired last year on the *Belsat* TV channel;
- On February 4, the Minsk City Court began *in absentia* consideration of the case of former employees of the TUT.by independent media, editor Volha Loika, journalist Alena Talkacheva and legal adviser Katsaryna Tkachenka.⁷¹ The trial will be held behind closed doors. They were accused of calling for sanctions, inciting hostility, tax evasion and gross violation of public order. The largest non-governmental Internet portal in Belarus, tut.by, was closed down by the authorities in May 2021, and some of its leaders were detained, tried and convicted on politically motivated grounds. Part of the team that remained at large left the country and created zerkalo.io media, which mostly follows the traditions of TUT.by. Access to the website is blocked in Belarus and Russia. The content of the website is recognized as “extremist materials” in Belarus.

Teachers and professors

Human rights activists note there is a the systemic repression against Belarusian teachers. The authorities have consistently tightened their control over the educational sphere, displacing independent teachers and replacing them with loyal staff. Recent cases include:

⁶⁸ В Беларуси осужденному на три года колонии журналисту Игорю Карнею добавили 8 месяцев за неподчинение. Настоящее время 13.12.2024. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/v-belarusi-zhurnalistu-igoryu-karneyu-dobavili-8-mesyatsev/33238821.html>

⁶⁹ В Беларуси хотят заочно судить блогера Сергея Беспалова. Зеркало, 13.12.2024ю. <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/86011.html?c>

⁷⁰ Фотографии витебских журналистов появились на милицейских стендах «Внимание, розыск!» Vaj.media, 10.01.2025. <https://vaj.media/ru/fotografii-vitebskih-zhurnalistov-pojavilis-na-milicejskih-stendah/>

⁷¹ Очередной заочный суд над сотрудницами TUT.by начинается в Минске. Еврорадио, 04.02.2025. <https://euroradio.fm/ru/ocherednoy-zaochnyy-sud-nad-sotrudnicami-tutby-nachinaetsya-v-minske>

- The trial of English teacher Alena Bodzyaka began in the Minsk City Court on January 31, 2025.⁷² She is accused of inciting hostility and calling for harm to Belarus. The sanctions under these charges provide for up to 12 years of imprisonment. The essence of Bodzyaka’s accusations is unknown. However, these charges are often used to persecute persons who have left comments on Telegram or social media;
- On November 23, the Brest Regional Court sentenced Dzmitry Pazdnyakou, a lecturer at the military faculty of Belarusian State University, to 19 years of imprisonment under the charges of high treason.⁷³ This was reported by the state television channel “Belarus 1” on December 3 in a special story about the KGB activities “Polish special services recruit Belarusians.” According to the story, he was recruited during one of his trips to Poland. He passed information about his work, employees of the Brest military commandant’s office, and other information to the Polish special services. It was alleged that Pazdnyakou received a total of 60,000 USD for his work for the Polish security services. Pazdnyakou was detained because “operational information was received that he was going to leave Belarus”. According to “*Viasna*” Human Rights Center, he was tortured in the colony with a stun gun, forced to sign documents and blank sheets.

Priests

- The trial of Priest Andrzej Yukhnevich began on December 27 in the Shumilinsky district court.⁷⁴ Initially, he was detained on “political” charges, but it follows from the schedule of court hearings that they are not among the charges. He is currently charged with “relations with minors”, for which penalties range from five to 13 years of imprisonment. Andrzej Yukhnevich’s acquaintances and parishioners consider the case to be fabricated. The process takes place behind closed doors;
- Catholic priest Henrykh Akalatovich was sentenced on December 30 to 11 years of imprisonment for “high treason”.⁷⁵ 64-year-old Akalatovich, the rector of a church in the town of Valozhyn near Minsk, spent one year in a KGB pre-trial detention center prior to the trial, although he was diagnosed with a serious illness. The trial was closed, and the nature of the charges against Henrykh Akalatovich remains unclear. It is, however, known that he was accused of “causing damage to the state” for one million Euro. According to other sources, he allegedly passed secret information to someone. Akalatovich himself pleaded not guilty. There was no official information about the verdict. The state-owned Belarusian media did not write about it;
- At the end of December, Mikalai Hila, a protestant preacher and an employee of the EU delegation to Belarus, was convicted in Minsk.⁷⁶ He was found guilty of “inciting other social discord or hostility”, as well as “calling for sanctions”, and sentenced to four years of imprisonment.

⁷² В Беларуси продолжают репрессии против учителей. NEXTA, 03.02.2025. https://t.me/nexta_tv/25553

⁷³ В Беларуси преподавателю военного факультета БГУ дали 19 лет колонии по статье об измене государству. Настоящее время, 04.12.2024. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/v-belarusi-prepodavatelyu-voennogo-fakulteta-bgu-dali-19-let-kolonii/33226059.html>

⁷⁴ Ксендза Юхневича начнут судить 27 декабря. Официально его будут судить не за «политику». Зеркало, 22.12.2024. <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/86659.html?c>

⁷⁵ В Беларуси ксендза впервые с 1990-х приговорили к сроку. DW, 31.12.2024. <https://www.dw.com/ru/v-belarusi-ksendza-vpervye-posle-raspada-sssr-prigovorili-k-turemnomu-sroku/a-71188717>

⁷⁶ В Беларуси сотрудника представительства ЕС приговорили к четырем годам колонии по обвинению в разжигании вражды и призывах к санкциям. Настоящее время, 09.01.2025. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/belarus-es-hilo/33270225.html>

Former security officers

On January 13, the trial of five former security officers began in the Minsk Regional Court.⁷⁷ In August 2020, Dzmitry Udovin, Andrei Daroshka, Vyachaslau Ilyin, Ihar Kislyak and Vital Paprotski recorded a video message to the security forces, in which they called on former colleagues “not to act as punishers”. They are accused of inciting hostility and harming national security.

The authorities keep lists of persons in certain professions who have been found to be disloyal to the regime.⁷⁸ The lists of athletes and former employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs fell into the hands of the “*Cyber Partisans*”. The documents demonstrate that the authorities not only dismiss people for political reasons but also monitor where they got a job and whether they left the country. These lists also prove that only a few police officers, who were found to be “disloyal”, resigned voluntary. Most of them were fired “for absenteeism.” The most common wording for dismissal was “he held oppositional views, did not support the current government.” Among other reasons were: “he was criticized twice for cowardice in carrying out official duties to detain citizens from white-red-white [protest] actions”, “called on colleagues to resign from the Department of Internal Affairs”, “his close family members did not support the current government”, “participated in protest actions”, “insisted on dismissal”, “did not agree with the current political situation in the country”, “has “likes” in social networks of white-red-white activity”, “voted for an alternative candidate during the presidential elections”, “disagreed with the election results”.

Relatives of political prisoners

A separate category of those who are constantly subjected to repression are relatives of political prisoners and former political prisoners. They are being persecuted both “one at a time” and as part of “mass raids” on the families of political prisoners.

- The mother of political prisoner Yulia Laptonavich, Tattyana Vasilyeva, is accused of facilitating extremist activities for her interview with Belsat TV channel in 2021.⁷⁹ Her trial began on December 16 in the Brest Regional Court. She is currently held in the Brest pre-trial detention center. Tattyana was detained in Pruzhany in January 2024 during a raid by security forces. She was tried under an administrative charge for receiving foreign aid. In August, she was detained again, this time in a criminal case. Tattyana’s daughter, Yulia Laptonavich, was sentenced to three years of “home chemistry” (restriction of freedom) in the “round dance case” in 2021. In 2022, she was tried on six charges, including promoting extremist activities and insulting a government official. She was sentenced to five years of imprisonment. Yulia’s husband Ihar Laptonavich was sentenced to two and a half years of imprisonment in 2021 in the “round dance case”;

⁷⁷ В Минске будут судить пять экс-силовики, которые в 2020 году записали обращение к коллегам. Reform.news, 02.01.2025. <https://reform.news/v-minske-budut-sudit-pjat-jeks-silovikov-kotorye-v-2020-zapisali-obrashhenie-k-kollegam>

⁷⁸ Власть ведут списки «нелояльных» силовиков и спортсменов — «Киберпартизаны». Reform.news, 13.02.2025. <https://reform.news/vlasti-vedut-spiski-nelojalnyh-silovikov-i-sportsmenov-kiberpartizany>

⁷⁹ Мать политзаключенной будут судить за интервью «Белсату». Reform.news, 04.12.2024. <https://reform.news/mat-politzakljuchenoj-budut-sudit-za-intervju-belsatu>

- Security forces conducted another raid on the families of political prisoners and former political prisoners in December.⁸⁰ According to information from human rights activists, KGB officers were detaining people and searching their homes for several days. People were threatened with criminal cases, their equipment was seized. The “Country for Life” Foundation reported that in addition to equipment, bank cards were also taken away. It is noted that the security forces conducted the previous such raid in November. As a result, many persons were arrested on the charges of “high treason” and “promoting extremist activities.”
- The brother and father of political emigrant Mikalai Stagurski were detained in Homel.⁸¹ The detention of Dmitri, Mikalai’s brother, became known on February 4. He was taken to the police station for “extremist” subscriptions. On February 5, two trials were held in the Homel District Court. The first one dealt with an administrative case against Dmitri. The second one – against Vasil Stagurskiy, the father of Mikalai and Dmitri. The court’s decisions are unknown;
- On February 10, the trial of Tatsiana Frantskevich, the mother of political prisoner Aliaksandr Frantskevich, and Natallia Labatsevich, the aunt of Aliaksandr Frantskevich and the mother of former political prisoner Ilya Labatsevich, began.⁸² They are accused of facilitating extremist activities. The sisters were detained on July 19, 2024, in Navapalotsk, when they brought a parcel to Aliaksandr. The case is being considered by the Vitsebsk Regional Court.

Other cases and sentences

Not belonging to the most frequently persecuted groups does not mean that a case will not be opened against a person. The slightest suspicion of opposition to the regime or solidarity with those who dissent is sufficient grounds for persecution. Over the past four and a half years, the repression by the Lukashenka regime has affected more than 136 thousand Belarusians. Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya noted: “Everyone was touched by this wave in one way or another – through family, friends, relatives or personally.”⁸³

In the course of last three months:

- The security forces threatened to “take action” against those involved in the operation of the petitions.by, a service for submitting public collective appeals to authorities.⁸⁴ A Telegram channel close to the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption said: “Registration and any active action on the specified resource is used by its owners for their extremist purposes. Having received your personal identifiers, beglyje [a derogatory term for those who have left the country] in their criminal intentions indicate them in spam mailings to various government agencies and institutions, hoping to show the “mass character” of the issue of concern, thereby exposing them to

⁸⁰ Силовики проводят очередной рейд по семьям политзаключенных — правозащитники. Зеркало, 16.12.2024.

<https://news.zerkalo.io/life/86201.html?c>

⁸¹ Отца политэмигранта задержали в Гомеле. Reform.news, 06.02.2025. <https://reform.news/otca-politjemigranta-zaderzhali-v-gomele>

⁸² Сегодня начинают судить мать и тетю анархиста Францкевича, осужденного на огромный срок. Наша Ніва, 10.02.2025. <https://nashaniva.com/ru/361333>

⁸³ Рэпрэсіі закранулі больш за 136 тысячаў беларусаў цягам апошніх 4,5 гадоў. Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya telegram channel, 16. 01.2025. <https://t.me/tsikhanouskaya/6139>

⁸⁴ Силовики угрожают создателям сайта petitions.by. Reform.news, 13.12.2024. <https://reform.news/siloviki-ugrozhajut-sozdateljam-sajta-petitions-by>

the security forces.” . It was stated that measures will be taken against “the products of the entire petition network, as well as those responsible for its content and activities”;

- On December 17, arrests and searches took place in Dzerzhinsk, “*Viasna*” Human Rights Center reports.⁸⁵ According to preliminary information, the security forces were interested in independent observers of the 2020 elections, as well as people who had been found in administrative violations for participating in post-election protests. The exact number of detainees is being clarified;
- On December 25, the Minsk City Court sentenced Dzmitri Kuchuk, the leader of the liquidated “Greens” party, to six years of imprisonment and a fine of 500 basic units (around 5,800 Euro).⁸⁶ He was charged with gross violation of public order and calls for sanctions. Kuchuk was detained on February 16, 2024, the day of the death in custody of Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny, when Kuchuk wanted to honour his memory near the Russian embassy in Minsk;
- On December 26, the trial of Aliaksandr Apolka, director of the *Materik* construction store chain, began in the Oktyabrsky district court of Minsk.⁸⁷ He is accused of participating in protest actions. Apolka was arrested in August 2024. After his arrest, the security forces called him a “disgruntled bourgeois” and forced him to name his high salary;
- At the end of December, it became known that Aliaksandr Mazur, Pavel Karanyukhin and ex-political prisoner Aliaksandr Lykshyn were detained in Zhodzina on charges of creating or participating in an “extremist group”.⁸⁸ They have been in detention since mid-November. According to the KGB, the detainees were related to the initiative “letter.bel”, a service for sending letters to political prisoners, which was recognized as an “extremist group” on December 3;
- At the end of 2024, a new wave of politically motivated dismissals for activism during the protests in 2020 took place in the state-owned company Belaruskali.⁸⁹ According to several sources, layoffs continued in 2025, persons were called to talk to management, after which they were fired “within one day”. They were fired for the events of 2020 — actions, comments on social networks, election observation, etc.;
- On January 4, information appeared that a new wave of employee checks took place at the Rechitsa branch of state-owned company Belarusneft.⁹⁰ Checks were accompanied by calls to the police, phone checks and threats. Special attention was paid to the events of 2020. Then, the staff of the branch participated in protests and recorded a video in support of dismissed colleagues from the Management of field and geophysical works. In 2021, about 20 persons, who were members of an

⁸⁵ Силовики провели облаву в Дзержинске. Reform.news, 20.12.2024. <https://reform.news/siloviki-proveli-oblavu-v-dzerzhinske>

⁸⁶ В Беларуси лидера ликвидированной партии “Зеленые” Дмитрия Кучука приговорили к шести годам колонии. Настоящее время, 25.12.2024. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/dmitriya-kuchuka-prigovorili-k-shesti-godam-kolonii/33252517.html>

⁸⁷ В Беларуси за участие в протестах будут судить директора сети строительных магазинов «Материк». Хартия’97, 18.02.2025. <https://charter97.org/ru/news/2024/12/15/622681/>

⁸⁸ Три человека задержаны в Жодино по делу «письмо.бел» — правозащитники. Reform.news, 26.12.2024. <https://reform.news/tri-cheloveka-zaderzhany-v-zhodino-po-delu-pismo-bel-pravozashhitniki>

⁸⁹ «Вызывают силовиков и в наручниках выводят за ворота». На «Беларуськалии» — новая волна увольнений «за политику». Zerkalo, 04.01.2025. <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/87648.html?c>

⁹⁰ В Речицком филиале Белоруснефти зафиксирована новая волна репрессий. Флагшток, 04.01.2025.

<https://dson6cgvys1hu.cloudfront.net/ru/naviny/v-rechickom-filiale-belorusnefti-zafiksirovana-novaja-volna-repressij.html>

informal management chat of the branch, were detained. Six employees were convicted, recognized as political prisoners, and have already served their terms in colonies;

- On January 10, the trial of Nakanishi Masatoshi, a Japanese citizen, charged with “espionage activities”, began.⁹¹ He was detained back in July. It was alleged that he “collected and transmitted military intelligence information to the Japanese special services.” The process is held behind closed doors. Masatoshi can be sentenced to up to seven years of imprisonment. The Japanese Embassy in Belarus requested the authorities to allow their representatives to attend the trial, but they were refused;
- A pregnant 31-year-old woman was detained upon entering Belarus for “insulting comments” addressed to the head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus in 2020, a Telegram channel close to the security forces reports.⁹² It was alleged that the woman left for Lithuania, but then decided to return to Belarus. She was detained after crossing the border;
- In the first month and a half of 2025, several dozen persons were detained upon their return to Belarus.⁹³ In early February, it became known that six persons were detained from one regular bus at once. All the detainees were placed in a temporary detention facility in the city nearest to the customs, and some were placed under administrative arrest later on. The reason for the detention may be “extremist” reposts and subscriptions on social networks, photos from protests in cloud storage, donations, as well as results of Google search history. Additional checks at the border are also conducted with regard to persons who were previously detained at protest actions and were included in the “Besporjadki” (“Disorders”) database, and those who have not lived in Belarus for a long time. Human rights activists have information about cases where a person had crossed the border many times over the past few years and had never faced additional checks, had not been detained during his stay in Belarus, but was eventually detained now when he tried to enter Belarus immediately after passport control. The situation is constantly changing, and there are no guarantees that a person who previously entered and left without problems will not come to the attention of the security officers due to some new facts of his protest activity in the past, human rights activists reiterate. Detention after returning to Belarus does not necessarily take place immediately at the border. The security officers may come for some persons after a few days, or call and ask them to come for “a conversation”. Interrogations of Ukrainian citizens at the border continue as well. “Conversations” with them may take from a few minutes to several hours. Other passengers of regular buses have to wait for several hours for their return;
- On January 10, the Brest Regional Court announced the verdict of Aliaksandr Darahakupets, a resident of Ivanava.⁹⁴ He was sentenced to five years and six months of imprisonment, as well as a fine of 50,000 basic units (2.1 million rubles, or about 624,000 Euro). Darahakupets was accused of transferring money and cryptocurrency in the amount of at least 11 thousand rubles to “extremist formations,” including Kalinouski’s Regiment. He was found guilty of facilitating deliberate actions

⁹¹ Японским дипломатам не позволили присутствовать на суде над Наканиси Масатоси. Reform.news, 11.01.2025. <https://reform.news/japonskim-diplomatam-ne-pozvolili-prisutstvovat-na-sude-nad-nakanisi-masatosi>

⁹² Беременную минчанку задержали при въезде в Беларусь за оскорбление главы МВД. Reform.news, 12.01.2025. <https://reform.news/beremennuju-minchanku-zaderzhali-pri-vezde-v-belarus-za-oskorblenie-glavy-mvd>

⁹³ Несколько десятков человек задержали с начала года по возвращении в Беларусь — «Вясна». Reform.news, 14.02.2025. <https://reform.news/neskolko-desjatkov-chelovek-zaderzhali-s-nachala-goda-po-vozvrashhenii-v-belarus-vjasna>

⁹⁴ Политзаключённого Александра Дорогокупца приговорили к 5,5 годам колонии за донаты. Вясна, 13.01.2025. <https://spring96.org/ru/news/117132>

aimed at inciting social discord and hostility based on other social affiliation; joining an extremist group for the purpose of committing an extremist crime; providing funds to consciously support extremist activities, including repeatedly; financing the recruitment, education, other training and use of citizens of Belarus and stateless persons permanently residing in Belarus to participate in the territory of a foreign state as part of an armed group of the warring parties, in armed conflicts and military operations in the absence of signs of mercenary activity; and facilitating extremist activities. During the investigation of the criminal case, he “voluntarily transferred” 600 thousand USD to the state institutions “Chervenski Boarding School for children with disabilities with special physical development”, “Ivyanetsky Boarding School for children with disabilities with special physical development” and “Republican Center for Medical Response Organization”;

- The Operational and Analytical Center of Belarus cancelled the registration of the domain name of the Convenient City platform “petitions.by”, used for the collection of signatures under petitions to the authorities.⁹⁵ “The domain petitions.by no longer belongs to us and can be used by third parties, including structures that can use it for criminal purposes, for example, to collect your data,” the creators of the platform write. Facebook, Instagram, and Telegram pages of the petition platform were recognized as “extremist” materials by the Central District Court of Minsk on December 30, 2024;
- Human rights defender Uladzimir Tselyapun was isolated in Mazyr for the “elections” period.⁹⁶ On January 17, he was tried in the Mozyr district Court on administrative charges of “spreading extremist information”;
- Alena Sharafanovich, a pediatric oncologist with 23 years of experience, is tried for participating in the protests.⁹⁷ She worked at the *Center for Pediatric Oncology, Hematology and Immunology in Baraulyany*, and then at the *Sharafanovich Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Pediatric Surgery*. The trial on charges of organizing and preparing actions that grossly violate public order or actively participate in them began in the Pervomaisky Court of Minsk on January 30. Sharafanovich is considered to be one of the best pediatric oncologists in Belarus. According to “*Viasna*” *Human Rights Center*, Sharafanovich’s husband, Ruslan Sharafanovich, was also tried in a criminal case for participating in protests. The results of that trial are not known;
- “*Viasna*” *Human Rights Center* reported first trials for “election violations.”⁹⁸ On February 3, the Pervomaiski district court of Minsk began to consider the case against Bagdan Litvinou on charges of “violating legislation on elections, referenda, and exercising the right of legislative initiative of citizens”. Under the same charge and on the same day, Andrei Tsymashenka’ trial began in the court of the Navabelitski district of Homel. There is information about six similar trials elsewhere;

⁹⁵ ОАЦ Беларусі ануліраваў домен платформы petitions.by. Наша Ніва, 13.01.2025. <https://d2jmuqawavkddb.cloudfront.net/ru/359315>

⁹⁶ В Мозыре на время «выборов» изолировали правозащитника Владимира Телепуна. Наша Ніва, 18.01.2025. <https://nashaniva.com/ru/359696>

⁹⁷ В Минске за протесты судят известного детского онколога Елену Шарафанович: "Таких врачей, как она, в стране едва ли пара десятков". Настоящее время, 30.01.2025. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/minsk-protesty-sudyat-izvestnogo-detskogo-onkologa-elena-sharafanovich/33295280.html>

⁹⁸ Правозащитники сообщили о первых судах за «нарушения на выборах». Reform.news, 29.01.2025. <https://reform.news/pravozashhitniki-soobshhili-o-pervyh-suda-za-narushenija-na-vyborah>

- The Hrodna Regional Court considers the case of the spouses Leanid and Antanina Tserabei on charges of insulting Lukashenka, participating in protests, inciting social hatred, slandering Lukashenka and abusing state symbols.⁹⁹ They were detained in June 2024. It is known that they have a child, so the mother was not detained until the start of the trial. Pro-government channels suggested that she would probably be given a non-custodial sentence, while Leanid will have to spend some years behind bars;
- On February 3, the trial of Mikalai, Alena and Mikita Liapeshka began in the Central District Court of Minsk.¹⁰⁰ The whole family is accused of actively participating in actions that grossly violate public order;
- In Homel, seven teenagers will be tried for participating in the “extremist formation” of the “Dukh Rusi” (Spirit of Rus).¹⁰¹ The KGB recognized the “Dukh Rusi” Telegram channel, which at that time had 12 subscribers, as an extremist formation in December 2024. The alleged creators and participants of the “formation” have been behind bars for six months. All of them are minors. They face up to seven years of imprisonment. It is noted that the arrests had occurred earlier than the KGB recognized the Telegram channel as an “extremist formation”;
- Viktor Varabyou, a former customs officer, is accused of high treason, as well as abuse of power or official authority, facilitating extremist activities, participating in an extremist formation, and gross violation of public order.¹⁰² The trial began on February 14. It is held in the Minsk City Court behind closed doors. Varabyou faces up to 20 years of imprisonment;
- On February 11, the Minsk Regional Court sentenced 60-year-old Natallia Ladutska to four years of imprisonment and a fine of 600 basic units (24 thousand rubles, around seven thousand Euro).¹⁰³ Ladutska was detained on January 23, 2024, during a large-scale raid by the Belarusian special services in the case of the *IneedHelpBY* initiative, which helped Belarusian political prisoners. She was accused of facilitating “extremist activities.” Before that, the initiative was recognized as an “extremist formation.”

⁹⁹ Семейную пару из Гродно судят по пяти политическим статьям. Reform.news, 31.01.2025.

<https://reform.news/semeynuju-paru-iz-grodno-sudjat-po-pjati-politicheskim-statjam>

¹⁰⁰ В Минске за участие в протестах будут судить целую семью. Наша Ніва, 01.02.2025. <https://nashaniva.com/ru/360703>

¹⁰¹ В Гомеле семерых подростков будут судить за участие в «экстремистском формировании» «Дух Руси». Наша Ніва, 29.01.2025. <https://nashaniva.com/ru/360460>

¹⁰² 29-летнего таможенника обвиняют в государственной измене. Наша Ніва, 03.02.2025.

<https://nashaniva.com/ru/360858>

¹⁰³ В Беларуси дали 4 года колонии и штраф Наталье Ладутько, которая помогала политзаключенным через инициативу IneedHelpBY. Настоящее время, 11.02.2025. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/v-belarusi-dali-4-goda-kolonii-i-shtraf-natale-ladutko-kotoraya-pomogala-politzaklyuchennym-cherez-initsiativu-ineedhelpby/33311100.html>