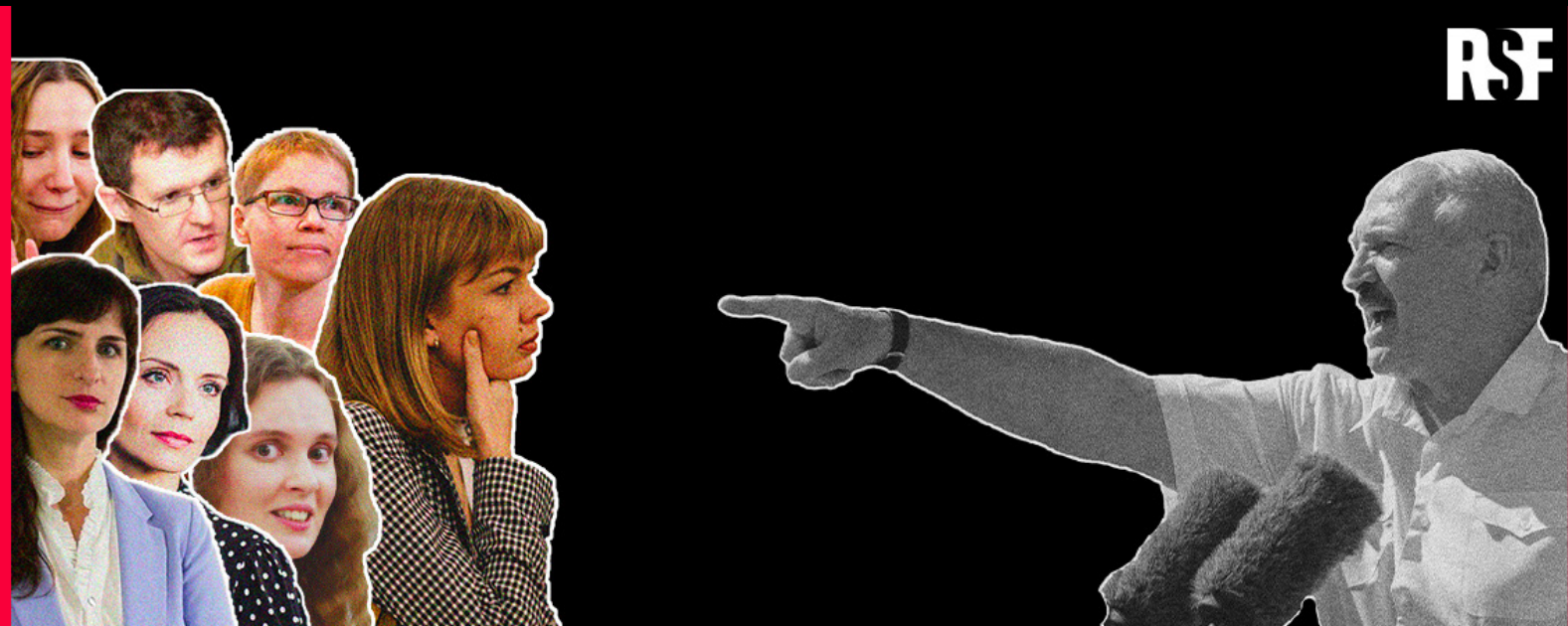


| REPORT |

PERSECUTION OF JOURNALISTS AND MASS MEDIA IN BELARUS

AUGUST 1, 2020 - JULY 1, 2021



PERSECUTION OF JOURNALISTS AND MASS MEDIA IN BELARUS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The situation in Belarus since August 2020 is characterized by systematic and massive human rights violations and crackdown on civil society and independent media. The human rights violations are perpetrated as a part of a systematic and widespread attack against the civilian population and may amount to crimes against humanity. Independent media, journalists and bloggers have become one of the first targets in a policy of persecution by the State authorities against anyone who express his/her disagreement with the state policy and the political regime or alleged to have such a position. After the presidential elections on August 9, 2020, the independent Belarusian media faced the most brutal repressions since the independence of Belarus in 1991. Suppression of press freedom is an integral part of the intentional policy of persecution against independent media and journalists aimed to “clean-up” the information space and monopolize the media content. The acting Belarusian government does its utmost to neutralize independent media and journalists and to prevent free, pluralistic and independent reporting about the situation in the country for the Belarusian residents and for the international community. If these aims are achieved, the Belarusians will have access only to the state propaganda instead of trustworthy information provided by the independent media. Only on July 8-9, 2021 around 40 searches were conducted in the offices of 12 independent media and in the houses of journalists, at

least 15 journalists were detained and interrogated, 4 – arrested under criminal charges of terrorism. Persecution of journalists, bloggers and media in Belarus take numerous forms: criminal and administrative prosecution, arbitrary detentions, torture and physical violence (including use of firearms against journalists), searches, unfair trials, closure of media, refusals to print and retail media, internet shut-downs, recognition of social media channels and publications as extremist, institutional pressure on media, including warnings and fines. Committing a crime of persecution, all Belarusian state bodies act jointly and synchronize their positions and actions that demonstrate systematic and intentional policy at the state level. There are no mechanisms at the national level for the effective protection of rights. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information, Prosecutor’s offices, Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Control Committee, Investigative Committee, economic courts and Supreme Court are all involved in the institutional persecution of media. The Cabinet of Ministers, Parliament and Constitutional Court participate in the law-making process. MIA (including OMON and GUPOBiK), KGB, general courts at all levels, Prosecutor’s offices and Investigative Committee take part in the individual persecution of the journalists. Lists of alleged perpetrators may be found in Annexes to the present report.

INTRODUCTION

In the aftermath of the presidential election on August 9, 2020, followed by mass protests, the Belarusian media have faced severe repression. The post-election period (from August 2020 to the present) has been the most difficult time for mass media in the entire history of independent Belarus. For the exercise of freedom of speech and the right to receive and disseminate information, journalists and bloggers (treated as organizers of protests by the authorities) are subjected to violence, arbitrary detentions, interrogations, raids and searches, administrative and criminal cases convictions, and fines. There have been registered facts of firearms usages against journalists.



1. Action of solidarity with detained journalists, Minsk, September 3, 2020. Photo: Radio Svaboda

According to the Belarusian Association of Journalists’ figures, the number of violations of journalists’ rights by **government representatives** in Belarus in 2020 was more than **8 times higher** than the average of the previous **ten years** (856 administrative and criminal cases, detentions, arrests in 2020, compared to an average of 104,8 in 2010-2019). The vast majority of attacks on journalists and the media were related to their coverage of the presidential elections in August and the protests that followed them. In 2021, the situation has not changed. Moreover, in late 2020 – early 2021, the authorities began to actively harass journalists and media specialists with criminal proceedings and charges. The Belarusian Association of Journalists registered the following cases of persecution of journalists in the 11 months since August 2020:

Type of harassment	From 09.08. to 31.12. 2020 ¹	From 01.01. to 30.06. 2021 ²	Total
Detentions	394	77	471
Facts of violence, including torture and attacks	62	5	67
Administrative arrests	85	21	106
Administrative fines	44	35	79
Searches, including in offices of media organizations	15	43	58
Criminal convictions	-	3	3

Criminal prosecution of journalists and media employees is the worst type of repression. As of July 15, 2021, 29 journalists and media specialists, as well as dozens of bloggers and administrators of Internet sites, are in custody on criminal charges.

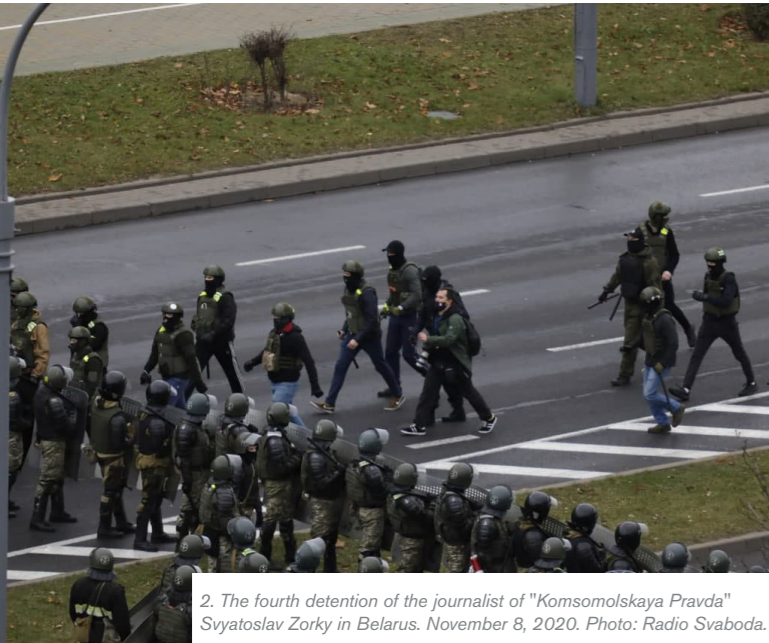
The post-election repression against the media sector has been:

- **severe** (large-scale criminal prosecution of journalists and media specialists; the use of direct violence against journalists and media employees);
- **long-lasting** (the repression against the media, as well as against civil society and the opposition, did not stop after the suppression of active protests, but even intensified after that);
- **consistent** (pressure was exerted on almost all spheres related to the freedom of expression).

1 <https://baj.by/en/analytcs/repressions-against-journalists-belarus-2020-chart>

2 <https://baj.by/en/analytcs/repressions-against-journalists-belarus-2021-chart>

INTRODUCTION



2. The fourth detention of the journalist of "Komsomolskaya Pravda" Svyatoslav Zorky in Belarus. November 8, 2020. Photo: Radio Svaboda.

The consistency of pressure on the media sphere and on the spheres related to freedom of expression manifests in:

- the Internet blackout in Belarus in the first days after the election and regular blocking of mobile Internet during mass protests;
- restrictions on online access to independent news websites;
- the crackdown of the largest Internet portal in Belarus, TUT.BY, with the audience of 60% of all Belarusian Internet users (withdrawal of the portal's media status, criminal prosecution of its employees, blocking of the portal, actions to recognize its materials as extremist);
- pressure on the owners and administrators of Telegram and YouTube channels, as well as local chats (from criminal charges and pressure on administrators to declaring their materials extremist);
- bans on printing and distribution of independent newspapers (including Narodnaya Volia, Svobodnye Novosti Plus, BelGazeta, Brestskaya Gazeta, Hazeta Slonimskaya, Intexpress, Novy Chas), which in most cases led their suspension;
- searches and seizure of all editorial equipment of Hazeta Slonimskaya, leading to its suspension;
- denial of accreditation to foreign reporters and subsequent revocation of accreditation of all foreign media reporters who had received it earlier (Belarusian citizens working for European media still cannot get accredited);
- the dismissal of dozens of state media employees who refused to spread fake news on the air and on the pages of state media, and their further administrative and even criminal prosecution;
- exclusion of Euronews TV channel from TV networks in Belarus and the increase of pro-Kremlin propaganda on Belarusian TV.
- The Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ) that promotes freedom of expression has faced harassment, too. The security forces raided the apartments of its leaders and BAJ office, seizing equipment, money, and documents. BAJ office and bank account were blocked for a month. The equipment and some of the documents have not been returned yet. The Ministry of Justice has launched an examination into the BAJ activities.
- The undemocratic legislation in the field of freedom of expression was further amended in 2021 (amendments to the Laws "On Mass Media", "On Mass Events", "On Internal Affairs Bodies", "On Countering Extremism", etc.) in order to legitimize the repressive practices that had already been widely used in Belarus.
- The following chapters describe the main forms of persecution of independent journalists and media in Belarus and present the selected illustrative cases. The review and description of all cases of persecution of journalists in Belarus could be found at the resources of Belarusian Association of Journalists³.

3 <https://baj.by/en>

1. CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF JOURNALISTS

The criminal prosecution on politically motivated charges has been one of the common tools used by the Belarusian authoritarian regime against its citizens for the last three decades. However, in 2020-2021 the journalists are prosecuted literally for performing their professional duties or as a revenge. The criminal prosecution of independent media started in June 2020, before the presidential elections on August 9, 2020 with the detentions of bloggers, and intensified since autumn 2020.

As of July 15, 2021 there are 29 journalists and media workers being detained in Belarus on criminal charges in connection with their work. They include several 'group' cases, such as 12 persons are detained within TUT.BY case, 4 persons detained within 'Nasha Niva' case, 5 persons detained within PressClub case. The most common accusations are tax evasion or organisation of mass riots. The criminal prosecution is characterised by prolonged groundless pre-trial detention, lack of any investigative actions and violation of basic fair trial guarantees during the trials, such as equality of parties, publicity, presumption of innocence, right to legal aid and others. The detention conditions are quite poor, especially in pre-trial detention centers.

The criminal prosecution is performed by several state bodies, including Ministry of Internal Affairs, KGB, Investigative Committee, the State Control Committee, general courts at all levels and Prosecutor's offices. List of alleged perpetrators for criminal prosecution may be found in Annexes to the present report.

1.1. THE CASE AGAINST JOURNALISTS OF BELSAT TV CHANNEL KATSIARYNA ANDREYEVA (BAKHVALAVA) AND DARIA CHULTSOVA

On November 15, 2020, the journalists broadcast live from a mass street rally in Minsk, first from the scene of the murder of Raman Bandarenka, later from an apartment of a nearby building. After the dispersal of the protest by police, GUBOPIK (Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption) officers (GUBOPIK chief is Mikalai Karpenkou) broke into the apartment they had been livestreaming from.

The journalists were detained on charges of participating in actions that grossly violate public order⁴ (Article 342 of the Criminal Code of Belarus). The case was investigated by the Frunzenski district department of the Investigative Committee (investigators Ihar Kurylovich and Ihar Kudzelia, head of the department Siarhei Kaptselau).

On November 15, 2020 Katsiaryna Andreyeva's apartment was searched. On December 12, 2020 Daria Chultsova's apartment was searched⁵.

On January 16, 2021 Minsktrans, state-owned transportation enterprise, claimed 11,562 BYN (around 3,700 EUR) in damages allegedly caused by their actions⁶.



3. Mass detention of journalists in Minsk on August 27, 2020. Photo: Vadim Zamirovsky, TUT.BY

On February 9, 2021 the Frunzenski district court of Minsk began the trial over the Belsat journalists (judge Natalia Buhuk, prosecutor Alina Kasyanchyk), and on February 18, Andreyeva and Chultsova were sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment each⁷.

On April 23, 2021 the Minsk city court (judges Alena Ananich and Piotr Arlou, prosecutor Volha Herasimovich) upheld the verdict. Since June, the journalists have been serving their sentences in the correctional facility No. 7 in Homel.

1.2. THE CASE AGAINST TUT.BY JOURNALIST KATSIARYNA BARYSEVICH

On November 12, 2020, activist Raman Bandarenka died in a Minsk hospital after a severe beating by security forces. The Prosecutor General's office made a statement that the activist had been in a state of alcoholic intoxication. The hospital doctor Artsiom Sarokin refuted that and sent Katsiaryna Barysevich a photo of Bandarenka's blood test results that showed he had no alcohol in his blood. The family of the deceased reported the same facts to the journalist. She published an article on this on TUT.BY. On November 19, 2020 the Prosecutor General's Office (Prosecutor General Andrei Shved) started a criminal case against doctor Artsiom Sarokin and journalist Katsiaryna Barysevich under Article 178 Part 3 of the Criminal Code (disclosure of medical secrets that entailed serious consequences). The journalist was detained and placed in the KGB pre-trial detention center, her home was searched⁴.

On December 9, 2020 the Centralny district court of Minsk heard the journalist's attorney's complaint against her detention. Judge Tatsiana Akavitaya ruled to dismiss the complaint.

On January 22, 2021 the Prosecutor General's Office completed the investigation and referred the case to Minsk city court (Chairman Pavel Korshunau)⁵.

On February 19, 2021 the Maskouski district court of Minsk (judge Sviatlana Bandarenka, prosecutor Ludmila Ivanenka) started the trial behind closed doors. On March 2, 2021 the court found the doctor and the journalist guilty. Sarokin received a suspended sentence of 2 years, and Barysevich got 6 months of imprisonment. The journalist has fully served her sentence and was released on May 19, 2021.

1.3. THE CASE OF DZIANIS IVASHYN, JOURNALIST OF NOVY CHAS NEWSPAPER AND MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE NETWORK INFORMNAPALM

On March 12, 2021 the Belarusian KGB detained Ivashyn, who lives in Hrodna. Dzianis is an investigative journalist. In Belarus, he works with Novy Chas newspaper. His last article for Novy Chas was dedicated to former Ukrainian Berkut officers who fled Ukraine and got jobs in the Belarusian police forces.

On March 12, 2021 the security forces searched the journalist's apartment and his mother's house. On March 15, 2021 they searched the home of Ivashyn's 95-year-old grandmother. The journalist was detained and put in custody in a pre-trial detention center (Aliaksandr Laurenchuk was investigator for particularly important cases of the investigative department of the KGB for the Hrodna region; Aliaksandr Neviarouski, the head of the Hrodna KGB).

On March 20, 2021 Ivashyn was charged under Article 365 of the Criminal Code, allegedly for exerting influence on a police officer in order to change the nature of his legal activities by disclosing information that he wants to keep secret. The journalist has been in pre-trial detention facility since March 12, 2021.

1.4. THE CASE OF THE PRESS CLUB BELARUS TEAM

Press Club Belarus staff Yulia Slutsкая, Ala Sharko, Piotr Slutski, Siarhei Alsheuski, Sergey Yakupov and journalist Ksenia Lutskina were detained in Minsk on December 22, 2020. The Department for Financial Investigations of the State Control Committee (Ihar Marshalau, director of the Department) searched their homes and the Press Club office.

On December 31, 2020 the Central Office of the Investigative Committee (Ivan Naskevich, then head of the Investigative Committee) charged Yulia Slutsкая, Ala Sharko, Piotr Slutski, Siarhei Alsheuski, and Ksenia Lutskina with tax evasion on a particularly large scale (Article 243 Part 2 of the Criminal Code). They remained in detention pending trial. Russian citizen Sergey Yakupov was released and expelled from Belarus.

Dozens of people who collaborated with Press Club Belarus have been questioned as witnesses from January to May, 2021. At present, the Press Club Belarus team is kept in the pre-trial detention center in Minsk.

1.5. THE CASE AGAINST THE TUT.BY STAFF

On May 18, 2021 the Department for Financial Investigations of the State Control Committee (Ihar Marshalau, director of the Department) conducted searches in the office of the most popular Belarusian portal TUT.BY, the apartments of editors, accountants and journalists. Equipment and documents were seized. TUT.BY office has been sealed from May 18, 2021.

On May 18, 14 journalists, employees and former employees of TUT.BY and its partner companies were detained and put in custody: CEO Ludmila Chekina, editor-in-chief Maryna Zolatava, editor Volha Loika, journalist Alena Talkachova, chief accountant Anzhela Assad, deputy director Iryna Rybalka, deputy chief accountant Maria Novik, chief engineer Ala Lapatko, deputy director Aliaksandr Daineka, manager Andrei Audzeyeu, CEO of hoster.by Siarhei Pavalishau, TAM.BY project manager Daria Danilava, lawyer Katsiaryna Tkachenka, former lawyer Iryna Kostsiuchenka. Co-owner of hoster.by Yulia Charniauskaya is placed under house arrest. All of them were recognized as political prisoners by human rights defenders.

On May 28, 2021 the Investigative Committee (chairman Dzmitry Hara) filed charges of tax evasion on a particularly large scale (Article 243 part 2 of the Criminal Code of Belarus) against 15 journalists, employees and former employees of TUT.BY and hoster.by.

1.6. THE CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST BLOGGER IHAR LOSIK

Ihar Losik, administrator of the Belarus Golovnogo Mozga telegram channel and a freelance consultant for RFE/RL, was detained on June 25, 2020, and his home in Baranavichy was searched. The police started a criminal case against him under Article 342 of the Criminal Code ("Organizing and preparing actions that grossly violate public order, or active participation in them"). After being held in the detention center in Minsk, Losik was transferred to pre-trial detention facility No. 1.

On August 18, 2020 it became known that the blogger was transferred to the pre-trial detention center in Zhodzina. On December 15, 2020 new charges were pressed Article 293 part 2 paragraph 13 the Criminal Code – "preparation for participation in mass riots".

On December 15, 2020 Ihar Losik went on a 42-day hunger strike to show protest and disagreement with the charges.

On March 11, 2021, due to new, harsher charges, Losik tried to cut his hands right in front of the investigator and declared a dry hunger strike. The political prisoner was placed in a disciplinary cell for refusing to take food. On March 15, it was reported that Ihar had stopped the hunger strike.

On June 24, 2021, the court in Homel began to hear his criminal case behind closed doors. Even his family were not allowed to attend the trial.

1.7. THE CASE OF RAMAN PRATASEVICH

Raman Pratasevich is a Belarusian blogger and journalist. In the summer of 2020, during the mass protests against the rigged election results, Pratasevich served as chief editor of the NEXTA telegram channel. After leaving NEXTA, he became the editor-in-chief of the Belarus Golovnogo Mozga telegram channel, which was previously administered by political prisoner Ihar Losik. Both channels were recognized as extremist by the Belarusian authorities.

Pratasevich is charged under Article 293 of the Criminal Code ("Mass riots"), Article 342 of the Criminal Code ("Organizing and preparing actions that grossly violate public order, or active participation in them") and Article 130 of the Criminal Code ("Incitement of racial, national, religious or other social hatred or discord").

On the basis of this, Raman Pratasevich was included in the national list of terrorists and put on the international wanted list. The Belarusian authorities requested his extradition from Poland. On May 23, 2021, the Belarusian government forced a Ryanair flight from Athens to Vilnius to land in Minsk and arrested Raman Pratasevich in the Minsk National Airport. Sofia Sapega, a student of the European Humanities University, was arbitrarily detained as well. He was held in pre-trial detention center No. 1 in Minsk, both Pratasevich and Sapega were later transferred to house arrest.

4 <https://t.me/bajby/2778>

5 <https://t.me/bajby/3081>

6 <https://t.me/bajby/3445>

7 <https://t.me/bajby/3890>

8 <https://t.me/bajby/3890>

9 <https://people.onliner.by/2020/11/22/zhurnalistku-tut-by-ostavili-v-sizo-kgb>

2. VIOLENCE AND TORTURE AGAINST JOURNALISTS

Mass violence was used against journalists on August 9-11, 2020. The Belarusian Association of Journalists registered at least 67 facts of violence on August 9, 2020 -- June 30, 2021. The use of force was intentional, and the journalists, wearing the specific insignia – badges, vests etc. – were targeted and attacked. Violence was used against both Belarusian and foreign journalists, men and women in different cities. There were at least three cases of police using firearms against journalists during protests in Minsk. As a result, they were injured, including severe injuries that required long-term treatment in hospital.

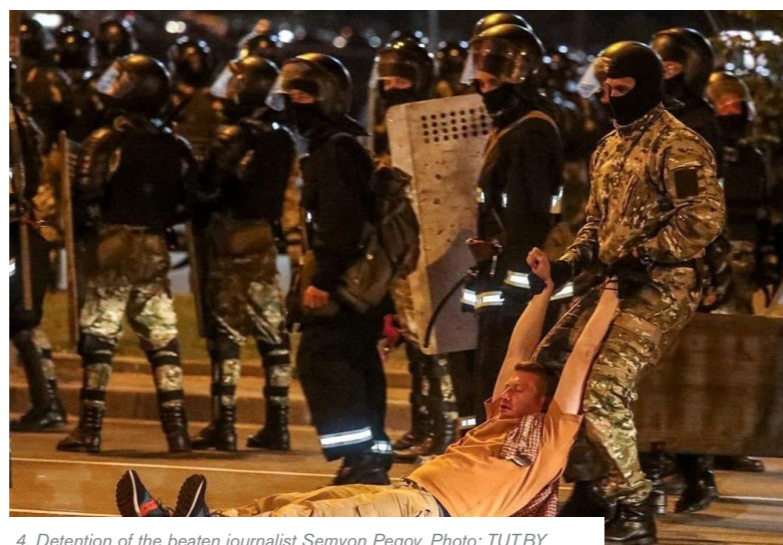
The physical violence was mainly initiated and performed by Ministry of Internal Affairs: OMON special unit, GUBOPiK and unidentified units participated in street violence, torture and ill-treatment were widely practiced in local police departments, police transport and in detention centers (especially temporary detention center at Akrestin street in Minsk - Akrestina prison). All the units were under command, and executed the orders to harass journalists. Despite the subsequent complaints of journalists, not a single case on the attacks, torture and ill-treatment of journalists was initiated.

2.1. YAHOR MARTSINOVICH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE NASHA NIVA (NN.BY)

On the night of August 11, 2020 Martsinovich drove to pick up his team members near the Pushkinskaya subway station. His car was stopped by officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Minister Yury Karayeu; Head of the Minsk City police Ivan Kubrakou), dragged out of the car, detained, and taken to the Zavadski police department of Minsk (head Kiryl Kislou). In the police department, the journalist was severely beaten – he received several dozen blows to different parts of the body with fists and batons. Then he was taken to a Zhodzina jail, and later released on August 12, 2020.

2.2. ALENA DUBOVIK (SHCHARBINSKAJA)

On August 10, 2020 Belsat TV reporter Alena Dubovik was covering protests in Minsk. After that, she came to the police department to report her colleague, Belsat cameraman, as missing. Her colleague had been detained earlier. A paddy wagon drove up to the police building, the riot police came out and grabbed the people near standing the police station, mostly families of those detained, looking for their relatives. Alena also was arrested. The journalist spent three days in the Akrestsina jail, where she was severely beaten by the Akrestsina staff (Head of the Akrestsina jail Yauheni Shapetska). After her release, she was hospitalized in an emergency hospital with a closed abdominal injury, lower abdominal wall contusion, bladder contusion, and ovary rupture.



4. Detention of the beaten journalist Semyon Pegov. Photo: TUT.BY

2.3. YAUHEN MIKALAEVICH, JOURNALIST OF THE MEDIA-POLESIE WEBSITE

The journalist was covering a street protest in Pinsk on August 10, 2020. He was detained in the central square of the city and beaten by OMON officers (Maksim Mikhovich, commander of the OMON of the Brest Regional Department of Internal Affairs). The journalist received head injuries¹⁰. He spent 7 days in the detention center and was released on August 17, 2020.

The journalist recalls: *"On August 10, 2020 I came to take pictures. I saw policemen there. I came over and took a picture of them. Then I got a phone call that riot police were coming. I walked down the street a couple of meters and saw them running. I started running away towards the building of the city executive committee. And I see policemen with shields already running from there. I raised my hands. I had a press badge on me. They detained me. They took me inside the building of the executive committee and threw me to the ground. I shouted "Journalist!" They hit my head against the floor twice, then they hit me with their hands"*.

10 <https://baj.by/be/content/zhurnalyst-evgeniy-nikolaevich-bili-unizhali-devochek-razdevali-dogola>

2.4. NATALLIA LUBNEUSKAYA, JOURNALIST OF NASHA NIVA NEWSPAPER

She was covering a street protest in Minsk on August 10, 2020 near Korona supermarket on Kalvariyskaya Street in a group of journalists. Natallia was wearing a blue Press vest and Nasha Niva badge. At about 20:00, a detachment of security forces in unmarked camouflage ran out of nearby courtyards and started shooting rubber bullets targeting the group of journalists (video of the incident¹¹). The journalist was taken by ambulance to the emergency hospital with a gunshot wound to her knee and spent 38 days in hospital. She reported the incident and applied to the Frunzenski department of the Investigative Committee (head Dzianis Shaman) requesting the instigation of a criminal case. The criminal case has still not been initiated.



5. Photo of the leg of the "Nasha Niva" journalist Natallia Lubneuskaya. Photo from the "Nasha Niva's": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYXcbAfSDMk>

2.5. IRYNA ARAKHOUSKAYA, A FREELANCE JOURNALIST, COLLABORATED WITH THE BELSAT TV CHANNEL

The journalist was covering street protests in Minsk on August 10, 2020. Wearing a blue "Press" vest she reported from a rally near the Pushkinskaya subway station. Security officers in black uniforms opened fire with rubber bullets. The journalist was wounded by a rubber bullet, resulting in a hematoma on her leg. The journalist recalls the events: *"I was standing on a hill (about 40 meters from the main events) and filmed the rally from above. When the conflict started and masked people in black uniforms approached a group of journalists, I stopped filming and ran up to a building on Prytytski 48, together with other journalists and some other people. Near the building the crowd split up: some people ran into the courtyard, my colleague (Aliaksandr Vasiukovich) and I ran along the building. Two men in black uniforms and masks (only their eyes could be seen), with long guns followed us. At that moment, one of them shot me. I kept running."* The journalist's injury was assessed in the 6th City Hospital of Minsk. She reported the incident and applied to the Frunzenski department of the Investigative Committee (head Dzianis Shaman) requesting instigation of a criminal case. The criminal case has not been initiated.

11 <https://t.me/bajby/962>, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYXcbAfSDMk&feature=emb_title



6. The journalist of "Nasha Niva" Natallia Lubneuskaya, wounded by a rubber bullet, was in the hospital for 38 days. Photo: Radio Svoboda.

2.6. STANISLAU IVASHKEVICH, A JOURNALIST, COOPERATES WITH THE BELSAT TV CHANNEL

On August 9, 2020 he covered the voting at a polling station in Minsk. After the closure of the polling station, he was detained by police and taken directly to the Akrestsina detention center (head Yauheni Shapetska) where he was severely beaten by the guards. The detained people had to pass through a "corridor" of security officers, each of whom beat a detainee with batons on the back, legs and head. They used plastic zip ties as handcuffs (the ones designed for construction works). The zip ties were put on by OMON officers (Dzmitry Balaba, head of the OMON of the Minsk City Police Department). The journalist recalls: *"The blows were made with rubber batons. Some officers wore gloves when they used the batons, I was hit about 10 times on my arms, with which I tried to protect myself, on the lower back, on the soles of my feet, and my shoulder blades. There were about 30 of them. They lined up in the corridor near our cell, their faces covered with masks. The uniform was like that of the detention center staff, black T-shirts, black pants. Black balaclavas. and cuffs and a holster on the belt. I got the impression that the holsters were empty. It seems to me that some of the employees were in police uniforms, but I can't say for sure now. Some of them struck hard, some blows were weak, without much brutality. It seems to me that one or two officers did not hit me at all. We were forced to run into the courtyard, where a line of officers, about 10 people, made us kneel, our heads down, and started hitting us with rubber batons. Each officer had a person to beat¹²"*.

12 <https://t.me/bajby/1045>



7. Police detains journalists in Gantsavichi, footage from the broadcast of the "Gantsavitsky hour", June 20, 2020. Photo: Radio Svoboda.

2.7. RUSLAN KULEVICH, JOURNALIST OF HRODNA.LIFE

The journalist, wearing a blue "Press" vest, was covering street protests in Hrodna on August 11, 2020. He was grabbed and beaten with sticks by OMON officers and got his both hands broken¹³.

The journalist recalls the events: "Five OMON officers (Viktar Krautsevich, head of the OMON of the Hrodna Regional Police Department), dressed in black T-shirts and balaclavas, broke into the workshop where my wife and I were hiding, and began yelling and beating me with a police baton. I shouted: "I'm a journalist, don't touch my wife!". One of the guys asked for my last name. I answered, and he said, "Ah, now we've got you." He took my camera and yelled: "The country is at war because of journalists like you." And he started hitting me with a stick. I tried to protect my face with my hands, and I got injuries (broken wrists)." The beating continued in the Kastychnitski district police department of Hrodna (head of the Kastychnitski district department Vadzim Siniauski). Two days later, the journalist was released and placed in the Hrodna Emergency Hospital with fractures of both hands (photo¹⁴). He was interrogated by the staff of the Hrodna region Investigative Committee (head Eduard Malinouski) about the beating and injuries. The criminal case has not been started.

2.8. YAN ROMAN, A JOURNALIST OF TELEWIZIJA POLSKA

The journalist, wearing a blue "Press" vest, was covering street protests in Hrodna on August 11, 2020. Yan Roman was detained by the OMON of the Hrodna regional police department (head Viktar Krautsevich.) He was severely beaten during detention: he had 4 teeth knocked out, an eye hematoma, a bone fracture on his left arm, and numerous abrasions and bruises.

The journalist recalls: "Someone kicked me in the face. When I fell, two people started kicking me and beating me with batons. They made about 10 blows. Then the same two officers took me to the bus, where they continued to beat and kick me in the same manner. I received another 10 blows in the bus."



8. Detention of a journalist. Brest, August 10, 2020
Photo: binkl.by



9. The detention of the editor-in-chief of the NewGrodno portal Igor Bublikov. September 27, 2020. Photo: Radio Svoboda

3. ADMINISTRATIVE PROSECUTION OF JOURNALISTS

Administrative prosecution of journalists and freelancers increased in the post-election period. The journalists who covered or livestreamed from the protests were especially targeted. Despite wearing distinction clothes and badges, they were detained and charged with participation in unauthorized street actions, disorderly conduct, as well as illegal production and (or) distribution of media products.

In this format of persecution, the important role is played by the general courts of all levels. The court decisions were largely based on the testimonies of law enforcement officers, whose identities are often hidden and not disclosed to accused, and documents provided by that. The courts of the second instances normally left the previous decision in force despite the grave violations of fair trial guarantees.

In the same way as during the criminal prosecution, the detention conditions are poor, and in some cases were even worsened by the prison administration to additionally punish the detained journalists.



10. Journalist Vlad Gridin is in a pre-trial detention center on Akrestsin Street. He participated in a trial through Skype. September 15, 2020. Photo: Radio Svoboda

3.1. DETENTION OF THE JOURNALISTS OF TYT.BY AT THE STUDENTS' RALLY ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

On September 1, 2020 there was a student protest in Minsk¹⁵. The participants called for the resignation of Alexander Lukashenko, end of police violence and accountability of those responsible for torture, the release of political prisoners, and new presidential elections.

Besides students, the security forces detained six journalists that day: TUT.BY reporters Aliaksei Sudnikau and Nadzeya Kalinina, Komsomolskaya Pravda in Belarus journalists Siarheu Shchahalou, Mikita Dubaleka and Maria Eleshevich, and Andrei Shauluha from the BelaPAN news agency. The journalists spent the night in the Kastychnitski district police department.

11. Five journalists being released from prison after they were arrested for covering the September 1st rally.
Photo: Radio Svoboda.

On September 2, 2020 Kastychnitski district court of Minsk heard the administrative cases against the journalists. They were charged under Article 23.34 of the Administrative Code (violation of the procedure for organizing or holding mass events). The journalists stayed in the police station and appeared in court online. OMON officers who testified online, too, were wearing masks, giving reasons to doubt whether they were the people they claimed to be. The court returned the cases against all the journalists back to the police department so they could correct the shortcomings in the documents, and the journalists who spent more than 24

hours in the cells of the police department were transferred to the Akrestsina detention center.

On September 4, 2020, judges of the Kastychnitski district court of Minsk, Aliaksandr Rudzenka and Volha Niaborskaya, in violation of the standards of a fair trial and procedural legislation, sentenced the journalists to three days of arrest¹⁶, thereby justifying their arbitrary detention and imprisonment for performing their professional activities. The verdicts were made based on contradictory testimony of masked witnesses with classified personal data.



11. Five journalists being released from prison after they were arrested for covering the September 1st rally. Photo: Radio Svoboda.

15 <http://mediazona.by/online/2020/09/01/students-protest>

16 <http://spring96.org/ru/news/99381>

3.2. DETENTION OF A JOURNALIST OF REFORM.BY YAUHENIA DOUHAYA

On October 9, 2020 police detained a Reform.by journalist Yauhenia Douhaya. They arrested her near her home in front of her 8-year-old daughter. In the police station, she was asked about her journalism. The officers threatened her with criminal charges and issued a report on her alleged participation in two unauthorized mass protests, one of which she covered as a journalist. The journalist spent at least two days in a cold cell awaiting trial. A mattress, a pillow and a blanket were given to her only in the evening of the next day. In the detention center, an officer who interrogated Douhaya reproached her for being a bad mother and threatened to send her daughter to an orphanage. On October 12, 2020, the chairman of the Partyzanski district court of Minsk, Mikhail Khoma, fined the journalist 30 base values (300 Euro). The journalist had to leave the country, fearing criminal prosecution for her journalism and for the fate of her daughter.

3.4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS AGAINST JOURNALISTS ALIAKSANDR BURAKOU AND ULADZIMIR LAPTSEVICH

On May 15, 2021, journalists Aliaksandr Burakou and Uladzimir Laptsevich were tried in Mahiliou¹⁷. They were detained on May 12 near the building of the Mahiliou regional court, while covering criminal prosecution of opposition activists. Both journalists were sentenced to 20 days of arrest.

Aliaksandr Burakou collaborates with Deutsche Welle. He received 20 days of jail for alleged "repeated participation in an unauthorized event within a year". A similar penalty was imposed on Uladzimir Laptsevich, a journalist of 6tv.by. The ruling was based solely on the testimony of a police officer of Leninski district police department of Mahiliou, Vasily Karniayenka. The ruling was passed by judge of the Leninski district court of Mahiliou, Viktoria Paliakova.

When released, the journalists described the conditions in jail: they had been sleeping "on bare boards" for 20 days and woken up twice a night. In the daytime they were taken out into the corridor, forced to strip naked and stand near the wall with legs far apart. The officers would hit them on the legs if the legs were stretched not far enough.



12. Radio Svoboda journalist Anton Trafimovich with a broken nose after being brutally detained on July 15, 2020. Photo: Radio Svoboda.

3.3. BEATING OF 'BELSAT' CAMERAMAN DZMITRY SOLTAN

Dzmitry Soltan (Buyanau), cameraman of the Polish TV channel Belsat, was filming a peaceful event on November 1, 2020, and was wearing a Press vest. Despite this, the law enforcement officers knocked him down and began to kick him with legs and batons, while his camera continued to work. The policemen smashed the camera and stole a memory card from it. Later Dzmitry was diagnosed with a dislocation of the collarbone, a torn ligament of the left shoulder and a head hematoma. On November 2, 2020, judge of the Partyzanski district court of Minsk, Natalia Dziadkova sentenced the journalist to 13 days of administrative arrest. Dzmitry was also informed that he was a suspect in a criminal case started for organization and preparation of actions that grossly violate public order.

3.5. THE AMENDED CODE OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENSES

On March 1, 2021 a new version of the Code of Administrative Offenses came into force. On the one hand, the new version of the Code lowered the upper threshold of the fine for illegal production and dissemination of information from 50 to 30 base values (from 500 to 300 Euro). On the other hand, it introduced the confiscation of items of an administrative offense.

This is an offence that journalists and freelancers often "fall within", if their stories are published in foreign media. Moreover, the offense derives not from the content of their materials, but from the very fact of their appearance in foreign mass media, since Article 35 part 4 of the Law of "On Mass Media" prohibits professional activities of foreign media journalists without accreditation.

The case of freelance journalist Dzmitry Lupach is illustrative in this respect. On February 25, 2021 alone, three hearings by three different courts were held. Hlubokaye court (judge Ludmila Vashchanka), Pastavy court (judge Natalia Maksimovich), and Sharkaushchyna court (judge Aksana Tabola) – all in Vitebsk region -- fined Lupach 90 base values each (900 Euro) for the appearance of his journalistic work on Belsat.

4. INSTITUTIONAL HARASSMENT OF MASS MEDIA OUTLETS

Institutional harassment of media is another serious form of violation of press freedom. It includes various actions that seriously restrict the functioning of media or lead to its suspension. It includes forced shut down of media, blocking the access to the web-sites, refusals to print and/or distribute media (for printed media), fines, searches and warning for unlawful activities for media, deprivation of accreditation of foreign journalists. All these forms intensified since autumn 2020 and put the independent media on the edge of survival. If the pressure continues, the independent media will stop functioning.

Together with that, the state media enjoy full support from the government, transmitting more and more aggressive state propaganda that instigates hatred in the society and to the neighboring countries. Dozens of journalists, who worked in the state-owned media and who expressed disagreement with the government police were fired, some even faced administrative or criminal prosecution.

In addition to the previously named state actors that take part in the repressions, here the key role is played by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Justice, the State Control Committee and economic courts of all levels as well as state-owned enterprises RUE Belpochta (the state-owned operator of the national postal network) and RUE "Belsoyuzpechat" (the largest state-owned retail press network).

4.1. TUT.BY: WITHDRAWAL OF THE MEDIA STATUS AND SHUTTING DOWN THE PORTAL¹⁸

On September 18, 2020, the Ministry of Information filed a lawsuit to deprive TUT.BY¹⁹ of a status of an online publication. On October 1, 2020 the Minister of Information ordered to suspend the portal's status of mass media until December 30, 2020. On December 3, 2020, the Economic Court of the city of Minsk, supported the suit of the Ministry of Information and ruled to deprive TUT.BY of the status of mass media²⁰.

The grounds for the ruling were 4 warnings from the Ministry of Information on the following articles:

- "Seven times more voters and "secret" protocols. What violations did the observers see and what did the CEC say?"
- "The State Control Committee will be able to pay large bonuses to employees who show their worth in high-profile cases";
- "TUT.BY editor visited by security forces. Her daughter charged with organizing mass riots"
- "The Belarusian customs asked to confirm that "Harry Potter" did not contain calls to overthrow the government."

At the same time, when TUT.BY appealed against the warnings, to the Supreme Court, one of them was declared invalid. The current Law on Mass Media allows to strip a publication of its media status after two or more written warnings within a year.



13. Detention of Svoboda journalist Aleksandra Dynko, deprived of her accreditation with the Foreign Ministry on August 29. Minsk, June 19, 2020. Photo: Radio Svoboda.

On May 18, 2021, the Financial Investigations Department of the State Control Committee searched the homes of TUT.BY management and its office. The searches followed the instigation of a criminal case for alleged tax evasion on a particularly large scale.

To date, 14 people are in pre-trial detention or under house arrest, including the CEO and editor-in-chief of the portal, journalists and other employees of the company (including former ones).

On the same day, the Ministry of Information decided to restrict access to TUT.BY and its copies on the basis of a notification from the Prosecutor General's Office. The Prosecutor General's Office stated that it had established "numerous facts" of prohibited information posted on the portal (for example, about the BYSQL Fund). During the search, the security forces seized the servers. That led to the closure of TUT.BY. To date, the team works only in social media.

On June 24, 2021, a court hearing began, where the Ministry of Internal Affairs asked to recognize the blocked portal, as well as its social media pages, extremist materials. The hearing has been suspended until further notice²¹.

18 <https://baj.by/ru/content/v-tutby-prishyol-dfr-idut-obyski-sayt-tutby-zablokirovan-obnovlyatsya>

19 Background information: TUT.BY was founded on October 5, 2000, and was one of the most popular Internet resources in Belarus. According to the Yandex.Metrica service, its monthly attendance recently amounted to about 20 million unique visitors, of which 70 % are users from Belarus. After the presidential election in 2020, the portal and its journalists experienced serious pressure. In 2020, TUT.BY journalists were detained 38 times (journalist Aliaksei Sudnikau was detained 4 times); 5 journalists

20 <https://baj.by/ru/content/tutby-lishaetsya-statusa-smi-ekonomicheskij-sud-minska-otklonil-zhalobu>

17 <https://spring96.org/ru/news/103369>

4.2. BLOCKING ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, AS WELL AS TO MASS MEDIA WEBSITES

The websites of many media outlets were blocked after the election on August 9, to prevent the dissemination of information. From August 9 to 12, the Internet was blocked in Belarus. Problems with Internet access continued until the end of October: every Sunday during mass rallies, mobile providers suspended mobile Internet services for several hours "due to the requirements of authorized state bodies".

After the elections, most of the independent websites that covered the socio-political situation were blocked, outside any legal procedure. Thus, the BAJ website was inaccessible for users in Belarus from 9 to 27 August, although there were no official rulings to restrict access to it.

The Law on Mass Media allows to restrict access to mass media websites "by decision (notification) of the national state administration body in the field of mass media or by a resolution of the Prosecutor General, or regional/Minsk city prosecutor". At the same time, the Ministry of Information can rule to block a website "referring to written notifications by state bodies (organizations) that have revealed, within their competence, violations on the use of Internet resources for the dissemination of information, the dissemination of which is prohibited."

On August 21 and 28, 2020, the Ministry of Information was reported to have restricted access to more than 70 Internet resources, which (in its opinion) "contained appeals and were used to coordinate actions on organizing mass disobedience to government representatives," as well as for "a number of articles that described the situation in Belarus after the end of the electoral campaign in a negative way and discredited the activities of law enforcement agencies."

In particular, among others the following media faced this kind of pressure:

Naviny.online. On April 12, 2021, at the request of the Ministry of Information, access to the Naviny.online news site was blocked²².

Mediazona.by. The publication was blocked by the order of the Ministry of Information of December 1, 2020 on the basis of a decision of the Centralny district court of Minsk²³.

Masheka.by, gazetaby.com, etc On August 21, 2020, the Ministry of Information ruled to block a number of Internet resources, including masheka.by and gazetaby.com²⁴. The blocking of the sites was linked to an attempt by the authorities to block information about post-election protests in the country and severe violence against protesters²⁵. The decision to block the websites was appealed to the Centralny district court of Minsk on December 16, 2020. The court found that the restriction of access to the websites was legal.

21 <https://baj.by/ru/content/process-o-priznanii-produkcii-portala-tutvy-ekstremistskim-priostanovlen-na-neopredelenny>

22 <https://baj.by/ru/content/vlasti-zablokirovali-dostup-k-saytu-navinyonline>

4.3. DENIAL OF PRINT MEDIA ACCESS TO PRESS DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS

Since August 2021, a number of non-state print media have faced obstacles in printing and distribution. The government pushed RUE Belpochta (the state-owned operator of the national postal network) to exclude independent publications from subscription catalogs. Also, the private press is denied distribution by RUE "Belsoyuzpechat" (the largest state-owned retail press network). The state agencies also put pressure on private retail chains, leading to their refusal to sell private print media in their chain stores.

This creates huge obstacles for the sale of the press and undermines the economic independence of the media outlets.

In particular, the following media faced this kind of pressure:

Intex-press. On April 28, 2021, the team of Intex-press received a letter from RUE Belpochta stating that the newspaper would no longer be included in the subscription catalog for the second half of 2021²⁶. On May 4, 2021, a letter from the Brest branch of RUE "Belsoyuzpechat" stated that from May 5, 2021, the company "waives its contractual obligations unilaterally"²⁷.

Nasha Niva. On April 8, 2021, the company received a letter that RUE "Belpochta" terminates the contract from July 2021: Nasha Historia, Dudu, and Astsiarozhna: Dzetsi magazines will not be included in the subscription catalog. In March 2021, RUE "Belsoyuzpechat" refused to sell these magazines in its kiosks²⁸. **"BelGazeta", "Komsomolskaya Pravda in Belarus", "Narodnaya Volia", "Svobodnye Novosti Plus".** These publications were not included in the RUE "Belpochta" subscription catalog for the first half of 2021²⁹.

"Novy Chas". On January 14, 2021, the team of Novy Chas found out that RUE "Belsoyuzpechat" would not sell their newspaper from February 2021³⁰. On June 4, 2021, they received a letter from RUE "Belpochta" that the newspaper would not be included in the subscription catalog for the second half of 2021.

23 <https://baj.by/ru/content/mininform-mediazona-zablokirovana-za-rasprostranenie-ekstremistskih-materialov-dokument>

24 gazetaby.com

25 <https://baj.by/be/content/bazh-trebuje-ot-vlastey-prekratiit-blokirovku-saytov-smi-i-davlenie-na-pressu-zayavlenie>

26 <https://baj.by/ru/content/belpochta-ne-vklyuchaet-intex-press-v-podpisnoj-katalog-torgovye-seti-otkazalis-prodavati-https://baj.by/ru/content/mininform-vynes-preduprezhdenie-gazete-intex-press-belsoyuzpechat-takzhe-otkazalas-prodavati>

27 <https://www.intex-press.by/2021/05/05/mininform-vynes-preduprezhdenie-gazete-intex-press-belsoyuzpechat-takzhe-otkazalas-prodavati-izdanie/>

4.4. TERMINATION OF PRINTING CONTRACTS WITH MASS MEDIA BY PRINTING HOUSES

State printing houses used various pretexts (the wearing of the equipment, a large number of clients, etc.) to terminate printing contracts with non-state media, despite many years of cooperation. Both state and private printing presses refused to print the independent publications; often, they explain that someone higher in rank told them not to print the newspapers. There are cases when printing houses of other states (for example, in Moscow (Russian Federation)) subsequently, refused to sign contracts due to the pressure exerted on them.

In particular, the following media faced this kind of pressure:

Hazeta Slonimskaya. On June 1, 2021, the SUE "Hrodna Printing House" notified the team of Hazeta Slonimskaya" (letter³¹ dated May 31, 2021) that printing of the newspaper was not possible "due to high workload and the wearing of the printing machine". The newspaper has had a contract with the Hrodna Printing House for 8 years³².

Intex-press. Intex-press newspaper received a letter from RUE "Belaruski Dom Druku" on May 9, 2021. The printing house notified the editorial team that on May 9 it "unilaterally terminated the services contract." The company did not specify any reasons. "We apologize and hope for mutual understanding," says the letter³³.

Narodnaya Volia. Narodnaya Volia newspaper has been having trouble with printing in Belarus since August 21, 2020. Belaruski Dom Druku (Belarusian House of Printing) CEO explained, they were unable to print the issue due to a breakdown of the printing press. At the same time, the failure of the printing press did not prevent the state press from printing. The team organized the printing in Russia (the city of Dolgoprudny). However, later the printing house terminated the contract; its activities were temporarily suspended by the Russian authorities. The team also tried to print the newspaper in Moscow. However, the contract was not signed due to "a very high-level" pressure on the printing house³⁴.

Brestskaya Gazeta. On November 30, 2020, the editorial office of Brestskaya Gazeta found out that Brest Printing House, which had been printing the newspaper for 18 years (since the publication was founded), was to break the contract in 2021. The company management did not explain the reasons for this decision. The team tried to find a printing house in Pinsk, Hrodna, and Minsk, but had no success. Since January 2021, the newspaper stopped its printed version³⁵.

28 <https://baj.by/ru/content/zhurnaly-nasha-gistoryya-ascyrozhnna-dzeci-i-dudu-vykidyvayut-iz-podpisnogo-kataloga>

29 <https://baj.by/ru/content/belgazeta-kp-narodnaya-volya-i-svobodnye-novosti-ne-vklyucheny-v-podpisnoj-katalog-belpochty>

30 <https://baj.by/be/content/novy-chas-bolsh-ne-budze-pradavacca-u-shapikah-belsayuzdruku>

31 <https://www.gs.by/2021/06/03/grodnenskaya-tipografiya-ne-budet-pechatat-nezavisimuyu-gazetu-slونimskuyu/>

32 <https://baj.by/ru/content/beloruskie-tipografii-otkazalis-pechatat-nezavisimuyu-gazetu-slونimskuyu>

33 <https://baj.by/ru/content/beloruskiy-dom-pechati-otkazalsya-pechatat-gazetu-intex-press-dogovor-rastorgli-9-maya>

4.5. IMPOSITION OF FINES ON THE MEDIA

Most often, mass media are fined for previously posted materials (which were later recognized as extremist), as well as for interviewing people suspected or charged with crimes. The fines are very large. Together with the restricted access to distribution networks, fines are a serious blow to the financial state of independent media.

The following media faced this kind of pressure:

Intex-press. On April 26, the Baranovich district and city court fined Intex-press chief editor Uladzimir Yanukevich 20 base values (190 euro) for an interview with ex-presidential candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. On May 5, 2021, the Economic Court of the Brest Region considered an administrative case against the company (Intex-press) for the same interview, and ruled to fine Intex-press 150 basic values (1,500 Euro). On June 17, the Supreme Court upheld this decision³⁶.

Hazeta Slonimskaya. On June 1, 2021, Yauhen Valadashchuk, owner of gs.by (Hazeta Slonimskaya) was fined 90 base values (870 Euro) on charges of distributing extremist materials. The ruling was made by the Slonim district court³⁷.

newgrodn.by On March 12, 2021, the Leninski district court of Hrodna fined editor of newgrodn.by Ihar Bublikau (Remzik) 25 base values (240 Euro) for dissemination of extremist materials³⁸.

Hrodna.life. On March 19, 2021, the Leninski district court of Hrodna, fined chief editor of Hrodna.life, Aliaksei Shota, 400 base values (3,865 Euro) – as a representative of a legal entity; and 25 base values (240 Euro) – as an individual. The reason was three articles in April and June 2020, which contained links or the logo of a Telegram channel recognized as extremist. When the materials were published, the Telegram channel had not been recognized as extremist. After it was recognized as extremist, the team removed all the references that it could find. Therefore, the team did not disseminate extremist materials deliberately and purposefully³⁹.

On April 26, 2021 the decision of the Leninski district court of Hrodna was appealed to Hrodna regional court. However, it remained in force⁴⁰.

On June 3, 2021 Iryna Novik, special projects editor of Hrodna.life, was detained and later fined 25 base values (240 Euro) by the Leninski district court of Hrodna for alleged distribution of extremist materials. She spent almost 3 days before the trial in custody, where she practically could not eat⁴¹.

On June 18, 2021 Hrodna Life Media company (the owner of the Hrodna.life website) was fined 500 base values (4,830 Euro) for alleged distribution of extremist materials⁴². In July 2021 the telegram channel of Hrodna.life was recognized extremist.

34 <https://baj.by/ru/content/narodnuyu-volyu-hotite-otpechatat-v-belarusi-u-vas-ne-poluchitsya-gazete-otkazavayut-https://baj.by/ru/content/naehali-na-ochen-vysokom-urovne-moskovskaya-tipografiya-sorvala-vygod-svezhego-nomera>

35 <https://baj.by/ru/content/teper-oficialno-brestskaya-gazeta-ne-budet-vyhodit-na-bumage-https://baj.by/ru/content/beloruskie-tipografii-otkazavayutsya-pechatat-brestskuyu-gazetu-https://baj.by/ru/content/brestskaya-tipografiya-otkazalas-pechatat-brestskuyu-gazetu-s-1-yanvarya>

36 <https://baj.by/ru/content/baranovichskaya-gazeta-intex-press-poluchila-eshche-odin-shtraf-za-ekstremistskoe-intervyu-s-https://www.intex-press.by/2021/06/17/intex-press-obzhalovala-reshenie-ekonomicheskogo-suda-brestskoj-oblasti-verhovnom-sude-vot-chem-vse-zakonchilos/>

4.6. WARNINGS TO THE MEDIA

The media receive warnings from the Ministry of Information and the Prosecutor's Office: for the dissemination of information that is recognized by the state as extremist; for publishing information that may harm "national interests"; for the dissemination of information "containing a call for unauthorized mass events", etc.

The following media faced this kind of pressure:



14. A rally of journalists in support of their detained colleagues near the Oktyabrsky District Department of Internal Affairs of Minsk, September 2, 2020. Photo: Radio Svoboda.

Novy Chas. On May 28, 2021, the Prosecutor General's Office issued a warning to Novy Chas. The warning referred to articles "Not very visible but important" (February 26), "Smoke curtain with consequences" and "Lawlessness is most difficult to accept" (April 9). According to the Prosecutor General's Office, the authors "used certain expressions and turns of speech that contributed to the tension in society, hatred and hostility against government officials and law enforcement officers as separate social group"⁴³. On March 25, 2021, the Ministry of Information issued a warning to the same media outlet. According to the Ministry of Information, the information published in two issues of the newspaper (No. 3 of January 22 and No. 4 of January 29) contributes to harming the national interests of the Republic of Belarus⁴⁴.

Intex-press. On April 15, 2021, the Baranavichy interdistrict prosecutor's office issued an official warning to its editor-in-chief Uladzimir Yanukevich, for an interview with ex-presidential candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya⁴⁵.

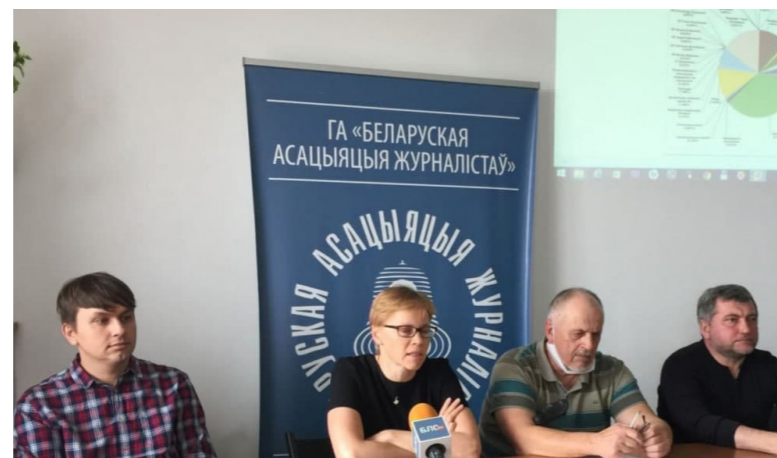
Brestskaya Gazeta. On December 23, 2020, Viktor Marchuk, its editor-in-chief, was summoned to the Brest city prosecutor's office. Also, on March 21, 2021, the prosecutor's office of the city of Brest issued a warning to Viktor Marchuk for spreading information that called for unauthorized mass events⁴⁶.

4.7. SEARCHES AND INSPECTIONS IN THE OFFICES (AND AT HOMES OF CHIEF EDITORS) OF MASS MEDIA AND BAJ

As a rule, the following reasons were used to carry out searches: suspicion of storing the information products that are recognized extremist; as part of criminal cases initiated against journalists; due to online insults of representatives of state bodies, as well as the president; to seize the entire print-run of an issue; as part of a criminal case for organizing and preparing actions that grossly violate public order, etc.

The following media faced this kind of pressure: **Virtualny Brest**⁴⁷, **Hrodna.life** and **Newgrodno.by**⁴⁸, **BelaPAN**⁴⁹, **Hantsavitski Chas**⁵⁰, **Hazeta Slonimskaya**⁵¹, **KYKY.org**⁵², **Narodnaya Volia**⁵³, etc., as well as the **Belarusian Association of Journalists**⁵⁴.

Moreover, the Ministry of Justice has launched an examination of activities of the Belarusian Association of Journalists. The Ministry's letters of June 9 and 16, 2021, requested BAJ to provide thousands of documents from January 1, 2018 to the present⁵⁵.



15. Press conference of the Belarusian Association of Journalists on September 30, dedicated to the massive persecution of journalists and the media. Photo: Radio Svoboda.

4.8. CHANGES IN THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK THAT RESTRICT WORK OF INDEPENDENT MEDIA AND THROTTLE FREEDOM OF SPEECH

In May 2021, the Belarusian authorities adopted a number of laws aimed at creating obstacles to the work of independent media. These laws legitimize the repressions and make legal the unlawful practices. With this legislation any media could be persecuted easier. These include:

4.8.1. LAW NO. 110-Z OF 24.05.2021 "ON AMENDMENTS TO LAWS ON MASS MEDIA ISSUES"

The draft was submitted by the Council of Ministers to the Chamber of Representatives on March 31, 2021. The document was considered by the Standing Commission on human rights, ethnic relations and the mass media. On April 2, 2021, it was adopted in the 1st reading; and on April 16, 2021 – in the 2nd reading.

On April 16, 2021, the draft Law was submitted to the Council of the Republic; it was considered by the Standing Commission on education, science, culture, and social development. On April 21, 2021, the draft Law was approved by the Council.

On April 30, 2021, the Constitutional Court considered the draft Law to be constitutional. On May 24, 2021, the law was signed by the President. The new Law:

- introduces an out-of-court procedure for suspension of a media outlet;
- expands the list of officials (state bodies) that can block access to Internet resources extra-judicially;
- expands the list of information dissemination of which is prohibited, as well as the list of grounds for warnings issued by the Ministry of Information;
- introduces additional restrictions on the rights of journalists and grounds for revoking their accreditation;
- introduces additional restrictions on the procedures for establishment, registration and distribution of foreign media;
- expands the requirements for a position of a chief editor;
- obliges the editorial team to put hyperlinks when distributing information from other sources, etc.
- The Belarusian Association of Journalists has prepared a detailed commentary on this draft law. (It is available here⁵⁶).

4.8.2. LAW NO. 108-Z OF 24.05.2021 "ON AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW "ON MASS EVENTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS"

The draft was submitted by the Council of Ministers to the Chamber of Representatives on March 31, 2021. The document was considered by the Standing Commission on housing policy and real estate development. On April 2, 2021, it was adopted in the 1st reading; and on April 16, 2021 – in the 2nd reading.

On April 16, 2021, the draft Law was submitted to the Council of the Republic; it was considered by the Standing Commission on Legislation and Statecraft. On April 21, 2021, the draft Law was approved by the Council.

On April 30, 2021, the Constitutional Court considered the draft Law to be constitutional. On May 24, 2021, the law was signed by the President.

The law prohibits the media from real time coverage (livestreaming) of mass events that are held in violation of the established procedure – to prevent their "promotion or propaganda". It opens possibilities for treating journalists covering unauthorized events as their participants. The law bans publishing any information about a mass event before state bodies give permission to hold it.



16. The trial of the journalists via video link. The witnesses are masked riot policemen. September 4, 2020 Photo: Radio Svoboda.

46 <https://baj.by/ru/content/preduprezhdenie-politicheski-motivirovanoe-potomu-chto-nichem-ne-obosnovannoe-redaktor-bg-o>

47 <https://baj.by/ru/content/horovodnoe-delo-u-redaktora-virtualnogo-bresta-proshel-obysk>

48 <https://baj.by/ru/content/v-redakcii-grodnenskih-media-prishli-sotrudniki-milicii-i-omon>

49 <https://baj.by/ru/content/v-ofise-informacionnogo-agentstva-belapan-proshel-obysk>

50 <https://baj.by/ru/content/v-redakcii-gazety-gancavicki-chas-i-doma-u-izdatelya-proshli-obyski>

51 <https://baj.by/ru/content/v-redakcii-gazety-slonimskoy-takzhe-obysk-zabirayut-kompyutery>

52 <https://baj.by/ru/content/v-ofis-kotoryy-kyky-snimaet-vmeste-s-agentstvom-vondelhepta-prishla-proverka-dfr>

53 <https://baj.by/ru/content/omon-prishel-v-redakciyu-narodnoy-voli-izyat-tirazh-segodnyashnego-nomera-gazety>

54 <https://baj.by/be/content/siloviki-prishli-v-bazh-k-pravozashchitnikam-i-zhurnalistam>
<https://baj.by/ru/content/vlasti-nachali-proverku-bazh-za-2-dnya-neobhodimo-podat-tsyachi-dokumentov-nekotorye-iz-nih>

53 <https://baj.by/ru/content/vlasti-nachali-proverku-bazh-za-2-dnya-neobhodimo-podat-tsyachi-dokumentov-nekotorye-iz-nih>

56 <https://baj.by/be/analytics/kommentariy-bazh-k-proektu-zakona-ob-izmenenii-zakonov-po-voprosam-smi>

4.8.3. LAW NO. 112-Z OF 26.05.2021 "ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CODES ON CRIMINAL LIABILITY"

The draft was submitted by the Council of Ministers to the Chamber of Representatives on April 9, 2021. It was considered by the Standing Commission on national security. On April 16, 2021, it was adopted in the 1st reading; and on May 7, 2021 – in the 2nd reading.

On May 4, 2021, the draft Law was submitted to the Council of the Republic; it was considered by the Standing Commission on Legislation and Statecraft. On May 7, 2021, the draft Law was approved by the Council.

On May 17, 2021, the Constitutional Court considered the draft Law to be constitutional. On May 26, 2021, the law was signed by the President.

The law introduces criminal liability (Article 198[1] of the Criminal Code) for violation of the legislation on mass media (online dissemination of information, the dissemination of which is prohibited by legislative acts, if committed within 1 year after an administrative penalty for a similar violation). The article provides for the following sanctions: community service; fine; restriction of liberty for up to 2 years; and imprisonment for up to 2 years. Article 369 of the Criminal Code ("Insulting a person in public authority") was also amended. Now, the dissemination of information both in the media and online might be considered an insult to a person of public authority or his family members in connection with their performance of official duties. The article provides for such sanctions as a fine, arrest, restriction of liberty for up to 3 years with a fine, or imprisonment for up to 3 years with a fine.

A number of articles of the Criminal Code that restrict the freedom of speech were also amended. For example, Article 369 "Insulting a person of public authority", 369[1] "Discrediting the Republic of Belarus", and 375[1] "Illegal collection or receipt of information constituting state secrets", etc.

4.8.4. LAW NO.106-Z OF 17.05.2021 "ON AMENDMENTS TO LAWS ENSURING NATIONAL SECURITY"

The draft was submitted by the Council of Ministers to the Chamber of Representatives on March 31, 2021. It was considered by the Standing Commission on national security. On April 2, 2021, it was adopted in the 1st reading; and on April 16, 2021 – in the 2nd reading.

On April 16, 2021, the draft Law was submitted to the Council of the Republic; it was considered by the Standing Commission on foreign affairs and national security. On April 21, 2021, the draft Law was approved by the Council.

On April 30, 2021, the Constitutional Court considered the draft Law to be constitutional. On May 17, 2021, the law was signed by the President.

The law introduces a ban on video recording, photographing and filming police officers (amends Article 25 of the Law of July 17, 2007 No. 263 - Z "On Bodies of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus").

CONCLUSION

The persecution of journalists and media in Belarus after the 2020 elections is massive, systemic, and long-lasting. Just for doing their job, Belarusian journalists face violence, including torture, arbitrary detentions, and lengthy pre-trial detention, arbitrary convictions on administrative and criminal charges, searches. Media outlets face pressure, including various obstacles for publishing and even closure of publishers.

The purpose of the pressure is for the state to monopolize the disseminated content and to silence independent media, journalists, and bloggers. If the government succeeds, the people in Belarus would be left with state propaganda which would replace objective, reliable, and up-to-date information disseminated by independent media.



17. Action of solidarity with detained journalists, Minsk, September 3, 2020. Photo: Radio Svaboda.

All the state agencies in Belarus synchronize their actions, which leads to a "vacuum of justice". In fact, this is a vital element of the government policy to consistently target the exercise of civil and political rights, including the right to freedom of expression and the right to disseminate information.

This is accompanied by the lack of effective mechanisms for the protection of infringed rights and legal remedies.

RECOMMENDATIONS: FILLING THE VAGUUM OF JUSTICE

What is to be achieved:

- to release, unconditionally, all detained and convicted journalists, as well as media staff who have been jailed for performing their professional duties;
- to stop harassment of journalists for doing their job; to ensure safe working conditions and protection of the rights that have been violated;
- to end economic, legal, and political discrimination against independent media and online resources and to remove obstacles for their access to the audience;
- to introduce a moratorium on the latest changes in the legislation in the sphere of freedom of expression, and to bring the legislation into line with the international legal obligations of the Republic of Belarus.

In order to do that, it is important to ensure that the state officials who take part in repression, including oppression of journalists and the media, as well as in the introduction of repressive norms into legislation, realize that their personal accountability is inevitable. This should be achieved by a prompt investigation by an independent and impartial body into all reports of torture, ill-treatment and other types of harassment for the exercise of human rights, including the right to freedom of expression. The investigation must lead to trials in order to ensure justice and accountability of the perpetrators of torture, ill-treatment and other human rights violations.

Since it is impossible, in the time being, to ensure accountability in Belarus, all Member States of the European Union need to support an independent, transparent, impartial, and thorough international investigation into reports of torture and ill-treatment, as well as other serious human rights violations, including harassment of journalists.

All structures of the European Union and all the EU Member States should be encouraged to do the following about the post-election situation in Belarus:

- to intensify use of the universal jurisdiction mechanisms in their legal systems to investigate crimes and mass violations of human rights, including those of journalists, and ensure accountability of perpetrators;

- to support the creation and activities of international independent bodies for investigation of mass violations of human rights, including the rights of journalists;
- to support the persons forced to leave the country by providing (temporary) protection and treatment of injuries received as a result of torture and ill-treatment; and, when cases fall under the provisions of the Geneva Convention, by providing asylum;
- to support human rights defenders and civil society organizations in their work on promotion and protection of human rights;
- to promote the involvement of the UN special procedures, the extension of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, as well as the reopening of the Country Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- to monitor the development of human rights, democracy and the rule of law on the basis of the recommendations developed in line with the international law.



18. Journalists of "Komsomolskaya Pravda in Belarus" Nikita Dubalek (Nedoverkov) and Maria Yeleshevich after being released from prison. Photo: Radio Svaboda.

LIST OF STATE BODIES, STATE ORGANIZATIONS, AND OFFICIALS RELATED TO THE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS, AS WELL AS THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE USE OF VIOLENCE AND TORTURE

№	Full name/position of a specific person or the name of a state body	Journalist/blogger or media outlet	Date/period	Type of harassment	Reference to the paragraph of the report
1	Mikalai Karpenkou aka Nikolay Karpenkov, Николай Карпенков, Head of the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption (GUBOPiK) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus	Katsiaryna Andreyeva (Bakhvalava), Belsat Daria Chultsova, Belsat	Detention by GUBOPiK officers on November 15, 2020	Detention with the use of violence, breaking into the apartment.	1.1.
2	Ihar Kurylovich, aka Igor Kurilovich or Игорь Курилович, and Ihar Kudzelia, aka Igor Kudelya, Игорь Куделя, investigators of the Frunzenski district (Minsk) Department of the Investigative Committee	Katsiaryna Andreyeva (Bakhvalava), Belsat Daria Chultsova, Belsat	November 15, 2020 – January 2021	Criminal prosecution, initiation of a criminal case, taking into custody, bringing charges, sending the case to court.	1.1.
3	Dzianis Shaman, aka Denis Shaman, Денис Леонидович Шаман head of the Frunzenski (Minsk) district department of the Investigative Committee, colonel of justice	Katsiaryna Andreyeva (Bakhvalava), Belsat Daria Chultsova, Belsat	November 15, 2020 – January 2021	Leading investigative activities in the criminal case against the journalists	1.1.
4	Natalia Buhuk, aka Natalia Buguk, Наталья Бугук, judge of the Frunzenski district court in Minsk	Katsiaryna Andreyeva (Bakhvalava), Belsat Daria Chultsova, Belsat	February 18, 2021	Convicting and sentencing the journalists to 2 years in prison.	1.1.
5	Alena Ananich, aka Elena Ananich, Елена Ананич, and Piotr Arlou, aka Pyotr Orlov, Пётр Орлов, judges of the Minsk city court	Katsiaryna Andreyeva (Bakhvalava), Belsat Daria Chultsova, Belsat	April 23, 2021	Confirming the verdict to the journalists in court of appeal	1.1.
6	Andrei Shved, aka Andrey Shved, Андрей Швед, Prosecutor General of Belarus	Katsiaryna Barysevich, TUT.BY.	November 19, 2020 – January 22, 2021	The Prosecutor General's Office initiated a criminal case against the journalist, pressed charges and referred the case to court.	1.2

7	Svaitlana Bandarenka, aka Svetlana Bondarenko, Светлана Бондаренко, judge of the Maskouski district court in Minsk	Katsiaryna Barysevich, TUT.BY.	March 2, 2021	Conviction of the journalist and sentencing her to 6 months in prison.	1.2.
8	Liudmila Ivanenka, aka Lyudmila Ivanenko, Людмила Иваненко, prosecutor, deputy head of the Minsk Prosecutor's Office Department	Katsiaryna Barysevich, TUT.BY.	February 19 – March 2, 2021	Took part in the trial as a public prosecutor	1.2.
9	Aliaksandr Lauranchuk, aka Alexander Lavrenchuk, Александр Лавренчук, investigator of particularly important cases of the Investigative Department of the KGB Directorate for the Hrodna region	Dzianis Ivashyn, "Novy Chas"	March 12, 2021 -- present	Criminal prosecution, initiation of a criminal case, taking into custody, bringing charges against the journalist.	1.3.
10	Ihar Marshalau, aka Igor Marshalov, Игорь Маршалов, Director of the Financial Investigations Department of the State Control Committee	Employees of Press Club Belarus: Yulia Slutskaya, Ala Sharko, Piotr Slutski, Siarhei Alsheuski, Siarhei Yakupau, Ksenia Lutskina.	December 22, 2020	Making a decision to detain the staff of a journalist organization, to search their apartments and the office of Press Club Belarus, transferral of the case to the Investigative Committee.	1.4.
11	Ihar Marshalau, aka Igor Marshalov, Игорь Маршалов, Director of the Financial Investigations Department of the State Control Committee	In relation to 15 employees of TUT.BY: Liudmila Chekina, Maryna Zolatava, Volha Loika, Iryna Rybalka, Alena Talkachova, Anzhela Assad, Maria Novik, Ala Lapatka, Aliaksandr Daineka, Andrei Audzeyeu, Siarhei Pavalishau, Daria Danilava, Yulia Charniauskaya, Katsiaryna Tkachenka, Iryna Kastsiuchenka.	May 18, 2021	Making a decision to detain the staff of TUT.BY, to search their homes and the office of TUT. BY, transferral of the case to the Investigative Committee.	1.5.

12	Dzmitry Hara, aka Dmitry Gora, Дмитрий Гора, Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Belarus	In relation to 15 employees of TUT.BY: Liudmila Chekina, Maryna Zolatava, Volha Loika, Iryna Rybalka, Alena Talkachova, Anzhela Assad, Maria Novik, Ala Lapatka, Aliaksandr Daineka, Andrei Audzeyeu, Siarhei Pavalishau, Daria Danilava, Yulia Charniauskaya, Katsiaryna Tkachenka, Iryna Kastsiuchenka.	Since May 18, 2021	Criminal prosecution, initiation of a criminal case, taking into custody, bringing charges against 15 employees of TUT. BY.	1.5.
13	Ivan Naskevich, aka Ivan Noskevich, Иван Носкевич, Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Belarus (in 2020)	Blogger Ihar Losik	Since June 25, 2020	Criminal prosecution, initiation of a criminal case, taking into custody, pressing charges against Ihar Losik and referral of the case to court.	1.6.
14	Dzmitry Hara, aka Dmitry Gora, Дмитрий Гора, Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Belarus	Blogger Raman Pratasevich	May 23, 2021 -- present	Criminal prosecution, initiation of a criminal case, taking into custody, bringing charges against Raman Pratasevich	1.7.
15	Kiryl Kislou, aka Kirill Kislou, Кирилл Кислов, Head of the Zavadski district of Minsk Department of Internal Affairs (Zavadski RUVD)	Journalist Yahor Martsinovich, "Nasha Niva"	August 11, 2020	Officers of the Zavadski RUVD, which is headed by Kislou, beat the journalist and other detainees on the premises of the police department.	2.1.
16	Yauhen Shapetska, Yevgeny Shapetko, Евгений Шапетько, Head of the Center for the Isolation of Offenders of the Minsk City Department of Internal Affairs (Akrestsina jail)	Aliona Dubovik (Shcharbinskaya), "Belsat"	August 10-13, 2020	Police officers, led by Yauhen Shapetska, severely beat the journalist, inflicting serious injuries.	2.2.
17	Maksim Mikhovich, aka Максим Михович, commander of the OMON of the Brest Regional Department of Internal Affairs	Yauhen Nikalayevich, "Media-Polesie"	August 10, 2020	OMON officers, led by Maksim Mikhovich, severely beat the journalist, inflicting serious injuries.	2.3.

18	Dzianis Shaman, aka Denis Shaman, Денис Леонидович Шаман head of the Frunzenski (Minsk) district department of the Investigative Committee, colonel of justice	Natalia Lubneuskaya, "Nasha Niva"	August 10, 2020 -- present	Dzianis Shaman failed to open a criminal case with respect to the shooting of a journalist and inflicting grievous bodily harm on her.	2.4.
19	Dzianis Shaman, aka Denis Shaman, Денис Леонидович Шаман head of the Frunzenski (Minsk) district department of the Investigative Committee, colonel of justice	Iryna Arekhouskaya, Belsat	August 11, 2020 -- present	Dzianis Shaman failed to open a criminal case with respect to the shooting of a journalist and inflicting bodily harm on her.	2.5.
20	Yauhen Shapetska, Yevgeny Shapetko, Евгений Шапетько, Head of the Center for the Isolation of Offenders of the Minsk City Department of Internal Affairs (Akrestsina jail)	Stanislau Ivashkevich, Belsat	August 9, 2020	Police officers, led by Yauhen Shapetska, severely beat the journalist, inflicting serious injuries.	2.6.
21	Viktar Krautsevich, aka Viktor Kravtsevich, Виктор Кравцевич, Head of the OMON of the Hrodna regional police department	Ruslan Kulevich, Hrodna. life	August 11, 2020	OMON officers, led by Viktar Krautsevich, severely beat the journalist, inflicting serious injuries.	2.7.
22	Vadzim Siniauski, aka Vadim Sinyavski, Head of the Kastrychnitski district police department (RUVD) of Hrodna	Ruslan Kulevich, Hrodna. life	August 11, 2020	Police officers, led by Vadzim Siniauski, severely beat the journalist, inflicting serious injuries.	2.7.
23	Viktar Krautsevich, aka Viktor Kravtsevich, Виктор Кравцевич, Head of the OMON of the Hrodna regional police department	Ivan (Yan) Roman	August 11, 2020	OMON officers, led by Viktar Krautsevich, severely beat the journalist, inflicting serious injuries.	2.8.

LIST OF STATE BODIES, STATE ORGANIZATIONS, AND OFFICIALS RELATED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROSECUTION OF JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS

№	Full name/position of a specific person or the name of a state body	Who was persecuted (journalist/blogger or media outlet)	Date/period	Type of harassment	Reference to the paragraph of the report	Note.
1	- Kastychnitski district of Minsk Department of Internal Affairs (RUVVD) - Aliaksandr Rudzenka, aka Александр Руденко, judge of the Kastychnitski district court of Minsk - Volha Niaborskaya, aka Ольга Неборская, judge of the Kastychnitski district court of Minsk - Center for the Isolation of Offenders of the Minsk City Police Department (Minsk GUVVD)	Aliaksei Sudnikau, TUT. BY - Nadzeya Kalinina, TUT. BY - Siarhei Shchohaleu, Komsomolskaya Pravda in Belarus - Mikita Dubalenka, Komsomolskaya Pravda in Belarus - Maria Eshalevich, Komsomolskaya Pravda in Belarus	1 – 4.09.2020	- detention, - administrative arrest.	3.1.	
2	- Partyzanski district of Minsk Department of Internal Affairs (RUVVD) - Mikhail Khoma, aka Михаил Хома, judge, Chairman of the Partyzanski district court of Minsk	Euhenia Douhaya, Reform.by	9-12.10.2020	- detention, - ill-treatment, - administrative fine	3.2.	- left Belarus
3	- Partyzanski district of Minsk Department of Internal Affairs (RUVVD) Natalia Dziadkova, aka Natalia Dedkova, Наталья Дедкова, judge of the Partyzanski district court of Minsk	Dzmitry Soltan (Buyanau), Belsat	1-14.11.2020	- detention, - torture (infliction of bodily harm), - destruction of equipment, - administrative arrest, - threat of criminal prosecution	3.3.	

4	- Leninski district of Mahiliou Department of Internal Affairs (RUVVD) - Vasili Karniayenka, aka Vasily Korneenko, Василий Корнеенко, officer of Leniski RUVVD of Mahiliou - Viktoryia Paliakova, Viktoria Polyakova, judge of the Leninski district court of Mahiliou - Temporary detention center (IVS) of Mahiliou Department of Internal Affairs	- Aliaksandr Burakou, Deutsche Welle, - Uladzimir Laptsevich, Mahiliouiski Rehiyon	12.05.– 01.06.2021	- detention, - ill-treatment, - administrative arrest	3.4.	
5	- Hlubokaye district Department of Internal Affairs (Vitebsk region) - Ludmila Vashchanka, aka Людмила Ващенко, judge of the Hlubokaye district court, Vitebsk region - Pastavy district Department of Internal Affairs (Vitebsk region) - Natallia Maksimovich, aka Наталья Федоровна Максимович, judge of the Pastavy district court (Vitebsk region) - Sharkaushchyna district Department of Internal Affairs (Vitebsk region) - Aksana Tabola, aka Оксана Табола, Оксана Георгиевна Табола, judge of the Sharkaushchyna court (Vitebsk region)	- Dzmitry Lupach, Belsat	25.02.2021	- detentions, - administrative fines	3.5.	

LIST OF STATE BODIES, STATE ORGANIZATIONS, AND OFFICIALS RELATED TO PERSECUTION OF MEDIA OUTLETS

Case	Media outlets that have been subjected to pressure	State bodies that persecute media	Officials of state bodies related to the persecution of the media
Withdrawal of the media status and shutting down the Internet portal TUT.BY	TUT.BY	<p>Ministry of Information Department of Financial Investigations of the State Control Committee Ministry of Internal Affairs Prosecutor General's Office State Committee of Forensic Examinations Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs National Expert Committee for evaluation of information products for elements of extremism.</p> <p>Supreme Court</p> <p>Economic Court of Minsk</p>	<p>Uladzimir Piartsou, aka Vladimir Pertsov, Перцов Владимир Борисович, Minister of Information, Ihar Lutski, aka Igor Lutsky, Луцкий Игорь Владимирович, Minister of Information (until 05.04.2021; at present – Deputy Head of the President's Office of the Republic of Belarus), Andrei Kuntsevich, aka Andrey Kuntsevich, Кунцевич Андрей Михайлович, First Deputy Minister of Information.</p> <p>Experts of the National Expert Commission for evaluation of information products for elements of extremism (authors of the Expert opinion on the presence of extremist materials on TUT.BY): - Aliaksandr Ivanouski, aka Aleksandr Ivanovsky, Professor of the Department of Legal Informatics of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; - Tatsiana Lapunina, aka Tatyana Lapunina, Лапунина Татьяна Альбертовна, Head of the Speech and Economic Research Department of the State Committee of Forensic Examinations.</p> <p>Yury Kobets, aka Кобец Юрий Викторович, Chairman of the Judicial Board for Economic Affairs of the Supreme Court; Ala Kryvitskaya, aka Ala Krivitskaya, Кривицкая Алла Александровна, a judge of the Judicial Board for Economic Affairs of the Supreme Court, considered the application for invalidation of 3 out of 4 written warnings issued by the Ministry of Information; Aliaksandr Pautau, aka Aleksandr Pautov, Паутов Александр Михайлович, Chairman of the Economic Court of Minsk, Ivan Maiseichuk, aka Ivan Moiseychik, Мойсейчик Иван Григорьевич, judge of the Economic Court of Minsk, ruled to withdraw the media status from TUT.BY, Dzmitry Yazvinski, aka Dmitry Yazvinsky, Язвинский Дмитрий Вячеславович, Deputy Chairman of the Economic Court of Minsk; Chairman of the Appeal Judicial Board</p>

Blocking media websites	Naviny.online Mediazona.by Masheka.by gazeta-by.org et al.	<p>Ministry of Information Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology Operational and Analytical Center under the President RUE "National Traffic Exchange Center" RUE "BelGIE" Centralny district court of Minsk</p>	<p>Uladzimir Piartsou, aka Vladimir Pertsov, Перцов Владимир Борисович, Minister of Information, Ihar Lutski, aka Igor Lutsky, Луцкий Игорь Владимирович, Minister of Information (until 05.04.2021; at present – Deputy Head of the President's Office of the Republic of Belarus) Kanstantsin Shulhan, aka Konstantin Shulgan, Шульган Константин Константинович, Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology of Belarus Andrei Pauliuchenka, aka Andrey Pavlyuchenko, Павлюченко Андрей Юрьевич, Head of the Operational and Analytical Center under the President Tatsiana Turomsha, aka Tatyana Turomsha, Туромша Татьяна Юрьевна, Deputy Director for Commercial Activity at RUE "National Traffic Exchange Center" Aliaksei Ivashkin, aka Alexey Ivashkin, Ивашкин Алексей Александрович, Head of RUE "BelGIE" Tatsiana Skapets, Tatyana Skopets, Скопец Татьяна Николаевна, judge of the Centralny district court of Minsk</p>
Denial of print media' access to press distribution networks	Intex-press Nasha Historia Astsiarozhna: dzetsi! Dudu BelGazeta Komsomolskaya Pravda in Belarus Narodnaya Volya Svobodnye Novosti Plus Novy Chas	<p>The Ministry of Information Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology The Prosecutor General's Office, as well as territorial structural divisions of the Prosecutor's Office Republican Unitary Enterprise "Belpochta"</p> <p>Republican Unitary Enterprise "Belsoyuzpechat"</p>	<p>Uladzimir Piartsou, aka Vladimir Pertsov, Перцов Владимир Борисович, Minister of Information Ihar Lutski, aka Igor Lutsky, Луцкий Игорь Владимирович, Minister of Information (until 05.04.2021; at present – Deputy Head of the President's Office of the Republic of Belarus) Kanstantsin Shulhan, aka Konstantin Shulgan, Шульган Константин Константинович, Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology of Belarus Andrei Shved, Andrey Shved, Швед Андрей Иванович, Prosecutor General of Belarus Sviatlana Yurkevich, Svetlana Yurkevich, Юркевич Светлана Викторовна, Director General of RUE "Belpochta" Valiantsina Pukh, aka Valentina Pukh, Пух Валентина Николаевна, Director of the Brest branch of RUE "Belpochta". Zhanna Shabeka, aka Zhanna Shebeke, Шебеко Жанна Васильевна, Director of the Minsk branch of RUE "Belpochta" Ihar Dudzich aka Igor Dudich, Дудич Игорь Викторович, Director General of RUE "Belsoyuzpechat" Tatsiana Zinevich, aka Tatyana Zinevich, Зиневич Татьяна Петровна, Director of the Brest branch of RUE "Belsoyuzpechat"</p>

Termination of printing contracts with mass media by printing houses	Hazeta Slonimskaya Intex-press Narodnaya Volya Brestskaya Gazeta	Ministry of Information Presidential Directorate of Facilities and Property Management Office of the President of Belarus Main Department for Ideological Work and Youth Affairs of the Hrodna Regional Executive Committee State Unitary Enterprise "Hrodna Printing House" RUE "Belarusian House of Printing" publishing company	Uladzimir Piartsou, aka Vladimir Pertsov, Перцов Владимир Борисович, Minister of Information Ihar Lutski, aka Igor Lutsky, Луцкий Игорь Владимирович, Minister of Information (until 05.04.2021; at present – Deputy Head of the President's Office of the Republic of Belarus) Ihar Bulauka, aka Igor Bulavko, Булавко Игорь Михайлович, Head of the Main Department of Ideological Work and Youth Affairs Vitaly Bartsevich, aka Барцевич Виталий Валентинович, Director of the State Unitary Enterprise "Hrodna Printing House" Viktar Sheiman, aka Шейман Виктор Владимирович, Head of Presidential Directorate of Facilities and Property Management (from January 21, 2013 to June 14, 2021) Andrei Lukyanchukau, aka Andrei Lukyanchikov, Лукьянчиков Андрей Николаевич, Director General of RUE "Belarusian House of Printing" publishing company Yury Arykhouski, aka Yuri Arikhovskiy, Ариховский Юрий Дмитриевич, Deputy Director General for Production and Ideological Work of RUE "Belarusian House of Printing" Publishing company Viachaslau Shakhlevich, aka Vyacheslav Shakhlevich, Шахлевич Вячеслав Валерьевич, Director of JSC "Brest Printing House"
Imposition of fines on the editorial offices of the media	Intex-press Nasha Niva newgrodnob.by Hrodna.life	Baranavichy City Department of Internal Affairs Leninski district Department of Internal Affairs of Hrodna Brest Regional Executive Committee The Supreme Court Economic Court of the Brest Region Economic Court of Minsk Baranavichy district and city court Leninsky district court of Hrodno Hrodna regional court Hrodna district court Slonim district court	Henadzi Barysiuk, aka Gennady Borisuk, Борисюк Геннадий Иосифович, Deputy Chairman of the Brest Regional Executive Committee Tatsiana Nahakova, aka Tatyana Gagakova, Гагакова Татьяна Михайловна, Head of the Main Department for Ideological Work and Youth Affairs of the Brest Regional Executive Committee Ernest Kairo, aka Ernest Koiro, Койро Эрнест Андреевич, judge of the Economic Court of Minsk Ruslan Hurin, aka Ruslan Gurin, Гурин Руслан Александрович; Natalia Kozel, aka Козел Наталия Григорьевна, Alena Piatrova, aka Elena Petrova, Петрова Елена Александровна, --judges of the Leninski district court of Hrodna Hanna Leusik, aka Anna Leusik, Леусик Анна Борисовна, judge of the Hrodna district court Dzmitry Vubenchuk, aka Dmitry Bubenchik, Бубенчик Дмитрий Витальевич, judge of the Hrodna regional court Mikalai Kmita aka Nikolay Kmita, Николай Кмита, judge of the Baranavichy district and city court Aliaksandr Yarmolik, aka Alexander Yarmolik, Ярмолик Александр Иванович, judge of the Slonim district court, chairman of the court Andrei Pihulski, aka Andrei Pigulsky, Пигульский Андрей Вячеславович, Deputy head of the enforcement and prevention unit of Leninski district Department of Internal Affairs of Hrodna Vadim Nalivaiko, aka Vadim Nalivaiko, Вадим Наливайко, Senior inspector of the Leninski district Department of Internal Affairs of Hrodna Ihar Mitsura, aka Igor Mitsura, Мицура Игорь Дмитриевич, senior inspector for licensing of the enforcement and prevention unit of Baranavichy city department of internal affairs

Issuing warnings to media	Novy Chas Intex-press Brestskaya Gazeta	The Ministry of Information Prosecutor General's Office Baranavichy Interdistrict Prosecutor's Office Brest City Prosecutor Interdepartmental Commission on Security in the Information Sphere	Uladzimir Piartsou, aka Vladimir Pertsov, Перцов Владимир Борисович, Minister of Information Ihar Lutski, aka Igor Lutsky, Луцкий Игорь Владимирович, Minister of Information (until 05.04.2021; at present – Deputy Head of the President's Office of the Republic of Belarus) Maksim Varonin, aka Maksim Voronin, Воронин Максим Валерьевич, Deputy Prosecutor General Aliaksandr Karliuk, aka Alexander Karlyuk, Карлюк Александр Павлович, Baranavichy interdistrict prosecutor Andrei Valadzko, aka Andrey Volodko, Володько Андрей Чеславович, Brest City Prosecutor Artur Ralinski, aka Artur Rolinsky, Артур Ролинский, Brest City Deputy Prosecutor Interdepartmental Commission members: Uladzimir Archakou, aka Vladimir Archakov, Арчаков Владимир Юрьевич, Deputy State Secretary of the Security Council (Chairman of the Commission) Aliaksandr Antanovich, aka Alexander Antonovich, Антонович Александр Аркадьевич, Chief Adviser to the State Secretary of the Security Council (Secretary of the Commission) Siarhei Azemsha, aka Sergey Azemsha, Аземша Сергей Яковлевич, Deputy Chairman of the Investigative Committee Viktar Hulevich, aka Viktor Gulevich, Гулевич Виктор Владимирович, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces Siarhei Zharnasek, aka Sergey Zhernosek, Жерносек Сергей Васильевич, Deputy Head of the Operational and Analytical Center Dzmitry Zhuk, aka Dmitry Zhuk, Жук Дмитрий Александрович, Director (editor-in-chief) of the "Belarus Segodnya" Publishing House Henadzi Kazakevich, aka Gennady Kazakevich, Казакевич Геннадий Аркадьевич, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Vitali Krasnabayeu, aka Vitaly Krasnobayev, Краснобаев Виталий Витальевич, Deputy Head of the Presidential Press Service Aleh Makarau, aka Oleg Makarov, Макаров Олег Сергеевич, Director of the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research Ihar Marzaliuk, aka Igor Marzalyuk, Марзалюк Игорь Александрович, Chairman of the parliamentary Commission on Education, Culture, and Science Marat Markau, aka Marat Markov, Марков Марат Сергеевич, Chairman of the Board of CJSC "Second National TV Channel" Siarhei Tserabau, aka Sergey Terebov, Теребов Сергей Евгеньевич, First Deputy Chairman of the State Security Committee (KGB) Pavel Tkach, aka Tkach Pavel Nikolaevich, First Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Information technologies Yauhen Shastakou, aka Evgeny Shestakov, Шестаков Евгений Андреевич, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Volha Shpileuskaya, aka Olga Shpilevskaya, Шпилевская Ольга Александровна, Head of the Main Ideological Department of the President's Office Usevalad Yancheuski, aka Vsevolod Yanchevsky, Янчевский Всеволод Вячеславович, Director of the Hi-Tech Park Administration
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Searches and inspections in the offices of media outlets, in homes of chief editors of the media, in the BAJ office	Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ) "Virtual Brest" Hrodna.life newgrodnoby BelaPAN Hantsavitski Chas "Hazeta Slonimskaya	Prosecutor General's Office Investigative Committee Ministry of Justice Department of Financial Investigations of the State Control Committee Leninski district Department of Internal Affairs of Hrodna OMON of the Hrodna regional Department of Internal Affairs OMON of the Minsk City Department of Internal Affairs Hantsavichy district Department of Internal Affairs Slonim district Department of Internal Affairs	Dzmitry Hara, aka Dmitry Gora, Дмитрий Юрьевич Гора, Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Belarus Ihar Marshalau, aka Igor Marshalov, Игорь Анатольевич Маршалов, Director of the Financial Investigations Department Dzmitry Valaba, aka Dmitry Valaba, Балаба Дмитрий Владимирович, Commander of the OMON of Minsk City Department of Internal Affairs Viktor Krautsevich, aka Viktor Kravtsevich, Кравцевич Виктор, commander of the OMON of the Hrodna Regional Department of Internal Affairs Aliaksei Vaitsheska, aka Alexey Voyteshko, Войтешко Алексей Игоревич, Head of the enforcement and prevention unit of the Leninski district Department of Internal Affairs of Hrodna Dzmitry Yurchuk, aka Dmitry Yurchik, Дмитрий Юрчик, Head of Criminal Investigation of the Hantsavichy district department of Internal Affairs Alena Kirychenka, Elena Kirichenko, Кириченко Елена Ольдовна, Head of the Department for Non-Profit Organizations
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STATE BODIES AND OFFICIALS, RELATED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE LAWS RESTRICTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Law	Owner of the legislative initiative / the state body that prepared a draft law	Officials (state bodies) who were involved in the preparation of the draft law	The Standing parliamentary commission, considering the draft	MPs involved in the adoption of a draft law
Law No. 110-Z of 24.05.2021 "On Amendments to Laws on Mass Media Issues" of Information Withdrawal of the media status and shutting down the Internet portal TUT.BY	Council of Ministers The Ministry of Information	Ihar Lutski, Igor Lutsky, Луцкий Игорь Владимирович, Minister of Information (until 05.04.2021; at present – Deputy Head of the President's Office): signed the justification for the need to adopt the Law; presented the draft Law to the House of Representatives. Uladzimir Piartsov, aka Vladimir Pertsov, Перцов Владимир Борисович, Minister of Information (since 05.04.2021): presented the draft Law to the members of the Council of the Republic. Officials who authorised the draft law: Ivan Kubrakov, aka Ivan Kubrakov, Кубраков Иван Владимирович --Minister of Internal Affairs, Aliaksandr Charviakov, aka Alexander Chervuakov, Червяков Александр Викторович -- Minister of Economy, Natalla Filipava, aka Natalia Filippova, Филиппова Наталья Николаевна --Deputy Minister of Justice, Iryna Kastsevich, aka Irina Kostevich, Костевич Ирина Анатольевна -- Minister of Labor and Social Protection, Andrei Pauliuchenka, aka Andrey Pavlyuchenko, Павлюченко Андрей Юрьевич, Head of the Operational and Analytical Center, Aliaksandr Huryanau, aka Alexander Guryanov, Гурьянов Александр Евгеньевич -- First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yury Seliversta, aka Yuri Seliverstov, Селиверстов Юрий Михайлович -- Minister of Finance, Maksim Varonin, aka Maksim Voronin, Воронин Максим Валерьевич, Deputy Prosecutor General	Permanent Commission on human rights, ethnic relations and the media (Chamber of Representatives) Permanent Commission on Education, Science, Culture and Social Development (Council of the Republic)	<u>Chamber of Representatives</u> Uladzimir Andreichanka, Vladimir Andreichenko, Андрейченко Владимир Павлович -- Chairman of the Chamber of Representatives (signed the resolution of the Chamber of Representatives on the adoption of the draft law); Henadzi Davydzka, aka Gennady Davydko, Давыдко Геннадий Брониславович -- Chairman of the Commission; Lilia Ananich, aka Ananich Liliya Stanislavovna -- Deputy Chair of the Commission, MP responsible for the draft law; Valiantsina Razhanets, aka Valentina Razhanets, Ражанец Валентина Витальевна -- Deputy Chair of the Commission; Maria Vasilevich, aka Vasilevich Maria Viktorovna; Ludmila Zdorykava, aka Lyudmila Zdorikova, Здорикова Людмила Евгеньевна; Natalla Tarasenko, aka Natalia Tarasenko, Тарасенко Наталья Эдуардовна; Volha Smahina, aka Olga Smagina, Смагина Ольга Владимировна -- senior staff member of the Secretariat of the Chamber of Representatives. <u>Council of the Republic</u> Natalla Kachanova, aka Natalia Kachanova, Качанова Наталья Ивановна -- Chair of the Council of the Republic (signed the resolution of the Council of the Republic on the approval of the draft law); Viktor Liskovich, aka Viktor Liskovich, Лискович Виктор Андреевич, -- Chair of the Commission; Andrei Ivanets, aka Ivanets Andrey Ivanovich -- Deputy Chair of the Commission; Aleh Sukonka, aka Oleg Sukonko, Суконко Олег Григорьевич -- Deputy Chair of the Commission; Tatsiana Abel, aka Tatyana Abel, Абель Татьяна Валерьевна; Dzmitry Varaniuk, aka Dmitry Voronyuk, Воронюк Дмитрий Сергеевич;

<p>Law No. 108-Z of 24.05.2021 "On Amendments to the Law "On Mass Events in the Republic of Belarus"" 110-Z of 24.05.2021 "On Amendments to Laws on Mass Media Issues" of Information Withdrawal of the media status and shutting down the Internet portal TUT. BY</p>	<p>Council of Ministers Ministry of Internal Affairs</p>	<p>Yauheni Kavalenka, aka Evgeny Kovalenko, Коваленко Евгений Иосифович -- Head of the Main State Legal Directorate of the President's Office, Aliaksandar Rakhmanau, aka Alexander Rakhmanov, Рахманов Александр Александрович --Deputy State Secretary of the Security Council, Ivan Tsertsel, aka Ivan Tertel, Тертель Иван Станиславович -- Chairman of the State Security Committee (KGB), Kanstantsin Shulhan, aka Konstantin Shulgan, Шульган Константин Константинович, Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology Dzmitry Basko, aka Баско Дмитрий Викентьевич -- Deputy Chairman of the State Control Committee, Mikhail Arda, aka Mikhail Orda, Орда Михаил Сергеевич -- Chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus. Ivan Kubrakou, aka Ivan Kubrakov, Кубраков Иван Владимирович --Minister of Internal Affairs, presented the draft law to the members of the Chamber of Representatives and the Council of the Republic.</p> <p>The draft law was prepared with the involvement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Justice <input type="checkbox"/> Investigative Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Prosecutor General's Office <input type="checkbox"/> Committee of State Security (KGB) <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Internal Affairs 	<p>Standing Commission on Housing Policy and real estate Development (Chamber of Representatives) Standing Commission on Legislation and Statecraft (Council of the Republic)</p>	<p>Ihar Hedzich, aka Igor Gedich, Гедич Игорь Николаевич; Yury Dziarkach, aka Yuri Derkach, Деркач Юрий Николаевич; Kanstantsin Drazdouski, aka Konstantin Drozdovsky, Дроздовский Константин Викентьевич; Aleh Dzyachenka, aka Олег Викторович; Kalina Karutskaya, aka Капуцкая Калина Викторовна;Ihar Kasko, aka Igor Kasko, Каско Игорь Борисович;Ala Smoliak, aka Alla Smolyak, Смоляк Алла Викторовна; Anatoli Shaltaniuk, aka Anatoly Sholtanyuk, Шолтанюк Анатолий Витальевич. <u>Chamber of Representatives</u> Uladzimir Andreichanka, Vladimir Andreichenko, Андрейченко Владимир Павлович -- Chairman of the Chamber of Representatives (signed the resolution of the Chamber of Representatives on the adoption of the draft law);Viktar Nikalaikin, aka Viktor Nikolaikin, Николайкин Виктор Павлович -- Chair of the Commission, MP responsible for the draft law; Aliaksandr Babalovich, aka Alexander Bobolovich, Боболович Александр Сергеевич -- Deputy Chair of the Commission; Aksana Haiduk, aka Oksana Gaiduk, Гайдук Оксана Вячеславовна -- Deputy Chair of the Commission; Vasili Dzemidovich, aka Vasily Demidovich, Демидович Василий Николаевич -- Deputy Chair of the Commission;Yauheni Adamenka, aka Evgeny Adamenko, Адаменко Евгений Буниславович;</p>
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<p>Law No. 112-Z of 26.05.2021 "On Amendments to the Codes on Criminal Liability"</p>	<p>Council of Ministers Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>Aleh Slizheuski, aka Oleg Slizhevsky, Слижевский Олег Леонидович --Minister of Justice; presented the draft law to the members of the Chamber of Representatives and the Council of the Republic</p> <p>A wide range of specialists were involved in the preparation of the draft Law – "state bodies that determine and implement criminal law policy, MPs and judges, scholars, and the legal community".</p> <p>The draft law was prepared with the involvement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Investigative Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Prosecutor General's Office <input type="checkbox"/> Committee of State Security (KGB) <input type="checkbox"/> State Control Committee <input type="checkbox"/> The Supreme Court <input type="checkbox"/> National Center for Legislation and Legal Research of Belarus <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Justice <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Internal Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> The Ministry of Information <input type="checkbox"/> Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs <p>Officials involved in the development of the draft law: Vadzim Ipatov, aka Vadim Ipatov, Ипатов Вадим Дмитриевич -- Director of the National Center for Legislation and Legal Research of Belarus⁵⁷,</p> <p>Natalla Filipava, aka Natalia Filippova, Филиппова Наталья Николаевна --Deputy Minister of Justice⁵⁸, Yauheniya Paramonava, aka Evgeniya Paramonova, Парамонова Евгения Владимировна -- Head of the Department of Supervisory Proceedings and Law Enforcement Practice of the Prosecutor General's Office⁵⁹,</p>	<p>Standing Commission on National Security (Chamber of Representatives)</p> <p>Standing Commission on foreign affairs and national security (Council of the Republic)</p>	<p><u>Chamber of Representatives</u> Uladzimir Andreichanka, Vladimir Andreichenko, Андрейченко Владимир Павлович -- Chairman of the Chamber of Representatives (signed the resolution of the Chamber of Representatives on the adoption of the draft law);</p> <p>Aleh Belakoneu, aka Oleg Belokonev, Белоконев Олег Алексеевич -- Chair of the Commission, Aliaksandr Dubau, aka Alexander Dubov, Дубов Александр Васильевич -- Deputy Chair of the Commission, MP responsible for the draft law; Ihar Martynau, aka Igor Martynov, Мартынов Игорь Феликсович -- Deputy Chairman, Aliaksandr Danchanka, aka Alexander Danchenko, Данченко Александр Михайлович, Yauheni Zaitsau, aka Evgeny Zaitsev, Зайцев Евгений Станиславович, Maryna Liancheuskaya, aka Marina Lenchevskaya, Ленчевская Марина Александровна, Ivan Mamaika, aka Ivan Mamaiko, Мамайко Иван Андреевич, Aliaksandr Markevich, aka Alexander Markevich, Маркевич Александр Иванович, MP responsible for the draft law, Uladzimir Kurava, aka Vladimir Kurava, Курова Владимир Викторович, senior member of staff of the Secretariat of the Chamber of Representatives.</p>
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57 <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/ipatov-sovershenstvovanie-ugolovnogo-zakonodatelstva-vazhno-dlja-gosudarstva-i-obschestva-7797/>

58 <https://pravo.by/novosti/obshchestvenno-politicheskie-i-v-oblasti-prava/2021/mart/61588/>

59 <https://www.belta.by/society/view/genprokuratura-rasskazala-o-planiruemyh-izmenenijah-v-ugolovnoe-zakonodatelstvo-434135-2021/>

60 <https://pravo.by/novosti/obshchestvenno-politicheskie-i-v-oblasti-prava/2021/mart/61588/>

<p>Law No. 106-Z of 17.05.2021 "On Amendments to Laws on ensuring national</p>	<p>Council of Ministers Ministry of Internal Affairs</p>	<p>Ivan Kubrakou, aka Ivan Kubrakov, Кубраков Иван Владимирович --Minister of Internal Affairs, presented the draft law to the members of the Chamber of Representatives and the Council of the Republic.</p> <p>The draft law was prepared with the involvement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Justice <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Internal Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> State Border Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Presidential Security Service <input type="checkbox"/> Committee of State Security (KGB) 	<p>Standing Commission on National Security (Chamber of Representatives)</p> <p>Standing Commission on foreign affairs and national security (Council of the Republic)</p>	<p>Chamber of Representatives Uladzimir Andreichanka, Vladimir Andreichenko, Андрейченко Владимир Павлович -- Chairman of the Chamber of Representatives (signed the resolution of the Chamber of Representatives on the adoption of the draft law);</p> <p>Aleh Belakoneu, aka Oleg Belokonev, Белоконев Олег Алексеевич -- Chair of the Commission, Aliaksandr Dubau, aka Alexander Dubov, Дубов Александр Васильевич -- Deputy Chair of the Commission, Ihar Martynau, aka Igor Martynov, Мартынов Игорь Феликсович -- Deputy Chairman, Aliaksandr Danchanka, aka Alexander Danchenko, Данченко Александр Михайлович, Yauheni Zaitsau, aka Evgeny Zaitsev, Зайцев Евгений Станиславович, Maryna Liancheuskaya, aka Marina Lenchevskaya, Ленчевская Марина Александровна, Ivan Mamaika, aka Ivan Mamaiko, Мамайко Иван Андреевич -- MP responsible for the draft law, Aliaksandr Markevich, aka Alexander Markevich, Маркевич Александр Иванович, Uladzimir Kurava, aka Vladimir Kurava, Курова Владимир Викторович, senior member of staff of the Secretariat of the Chamber of Representatives.</p>
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