

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

Summary Tuesday, August 18:

55 people were released from the isolation centers today. Thus, 67 citizens detained during protest remain behind bars, most of all in Brest. Another 58 people are reported missing.¹ According to official information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs at present, only 44 administratively arrested persons remain in the detention centers.² However, there is no full certainty in these figures.

Today several court hearings had to be held over the protesters detained on the last day of collecting signatures for the nomination of presidential candidates on July 14. However, all trials scheduled for today's hearing were adjourned to the beginning of September due to the absence of persons subject to administrative proceedings or the absence of witnesses noted in the report.³

Exercise the right of defense

Defense lawyers are not allowed to do their job, they are prevented from meeting their clients.

187 lawyers signed an open letter in which they stated that they could not ignore "manipulation of electoral legislation and open violation of it", as well as violations of citizens' right to defense both in criminal and administrative proceedings, inequality in the transmission of information to the public about the progress of the investigation of high profile cases.

"We all witnessed, to a different extent, how our colleagues, acting exclusively by legal methods, proved and demonstrated over and over how the entire electoral system was unfair, and often frankly illegal," the lawyers write, stressing that their statements, petitions, and complaints to law enforcement agencies and courts were most often examined formally and did not lead to the restoration of citizens' rights.⁴

Lack of legal remedies

None of the victims could rely on legal protection by lawyers. Many people were allowed to leave by ambulance only on the condition of signing a protocol, where the detainee agreed that they resisted police officers or participated in an unauthorized event. Many injured

¹ <https://news.tut.by/society/697165.html>

² Telegram-channel of MIA press-secretary Olga Chemodanova

³ <http://spring96.org/be/news/99119>

⁴ <https://news.tut.by/economics/697180.html>

received threats that if they claim to have been subjected to illegal physical force and torture, they will be brought to justice under a criminal article. There are known facts when, after applying for medical help, the injured were taken away by the authorities in an unknown direction. Due to this and fears of criminal prosecution, many of those injured are afraid to seek medical care in state institutions.⁵

Inhuman treatment, torture

The summary report with 347 cases from victims on the injuries they received during the suppression of protests by the security forces was published today by the International Strategic Action Network for Security.⁶

The report once again confirms that the actions of law-enforcement officers were disproportionate and cruel and inhuman treatment was exercised during the protest actions, the detainment, transportation of the peaceful demonstrators, and during their sojourn in pre-trial detention facilities.

These systematic actions of mass proportions endangered the health and lives of hundreds of people. Many victims appear to have sustained significant and long-term health damage. Currently, we know at least about two persons who died from the actions of law-enforcement officers.

Digital Freedoms

Today, there were no problems with Internet access, however, since August 9, blocking of the main independent news portals continues (now blocked: euroradio.fm; <https://belsat.eu/4>; <https://babariko.vision/>; <https://www.svaboda.org/>; <https://spring96.org/>).

⁵ Information is based on the report from NGO "Zvyano"
http://zvyano.by/en/доклад-о-нарушении-прав-участников-пр/?fbclid=IwAR3cxki-Lqfn5VICfLzHet_sx7JvxBwjoZbCYOD3HFdj5S1219YsfnjwZc

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<https://isans.org/analysis/policy-papers/ekspert-protestuyushhie-byli-podvergnuty-zhestokomu-obrashheniyu-i-pytkam.html>