

15.09

► When distributing the latest publication of the independent newspaper “**Svabodny Salihorsk**” in the central market of the city, a volunteer of the newspaper, an activist of the “*Young Front*” **Andrus Tychyna** was detained by local policeman with use of force. He was handcuffed, and, despite of the indignation of the market customers, was taken to the local police department.

At the police department 40 copies of the newspaper were seized. A report of seizure was drawn up. A report on violation by Andrus Tychyna hadn't been drawn up. In an hour he was released.

► - Young activists **Mikhail Illin** and **Yauhen Skrabets** were detained in Brest. A human rights activist **Uladzimir Vyalichkin** told to Radio Svaboda that policemen seized the young men in Respublika Avenue near the informational boards for voters, when they allegedly were pasting leaflets “Boycott”. However, it is said that they are charged under “customary” Article 17.1 of the Administrative Code (petty hooliganism). The Maskouski district court of Brest sentenced Young Front activists Yauhen Skrabets and Mikhail Illin to 5 days of arrest.

Also the apartment of youth activist Mikhail Illin's parents was searched by militiamen of the Maskouski district militia department.

- Yauhen Skarabutan, a young activist from Zelva, and a member of the United Civil Party from Hrodna have received summons to the court of Hrodna for September 18.

Statements of the head of Hrodna branch of the KGB have been attached to the summons. In the case of Yauhen Skarabutan the court is asked to establish the fact that the materials confiscated from him, a CD with the concert “Solidarity with Belarus”, a booklet “Basics of the strategy of the United Democratic Forces”, a booklet “Free Thought”, “Draft of the United Democratic Forces' resolution”, a book by P. Sevyarynets “Letters from the wood”, have extremist contents.

As for Uladzimer Laryn, the court is asked to establish the fact that the book “The Accidental President” confiscated from him is extremist contests. These articles have been confiscated from both Yauhen Skarabuan and Uladzimer Laryn back in 2007, when the activists were on their way back from Poland, Radio Svaboda informs. As we have informed, on Friday the same request for summons was received by journalist Andzrej Pislaniuk. In his case, the court is asked to establish the fact that the newspaper issue of “Glos znad Niemna” confiscated from him in the beginning of 2006 has extremist contents.

► A state newspaper **Zhyttsio Palesia** refused to publish the electoral programs of two candidates running at Paleskaya electoral constituency #43. According to the answer of the secretary of the newspaper **Sviatlana Danilchyk**, the candidates **Mikalai Haurylenka** (a representative of the United democratic forces) and **Siarhei Kanoplich** (former head of Yelsk district executive committee) failed to timely present to the editorial board the texts of their programs. Thus a part of the electors will not receive any information about the candidates' programs.

16.09

► On September 16, on the Day of Solidarity, a rally dedicated to the anniversary of abduction of opposition leaders Viktor Hanchar and Anatol Krasouski was disbanded. Riot policemen have brutally beaten up the candidate for “parliament” “deputies”, including the leader of the United Democratic Party Anatol Lyabedzka, a deputy chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front Party Vintsuk Vyachorka and his son, a youth leader Franak Vyachorka and others. Riot policemen tore European and national flags.

17.09

► Journalist **Andrzej Piscalnik**, an activist of the United Democratic Party **Uladzimir Laryn**, young activists **Yauhen Skarabutan** and **Alyaksei Trubkin**, and a human rights activist **Valery Shchukin** were summoned to the court of Kastychnitski district of Hrodna.

Different printed materials were seized from each of them at the Belarusian-Lithuanian border in different time.

A statement to the court had been made by Hrodna regional KGB directorate, which asks to recognize these publications extremist, the UCP website writes.

Among the confiscated materials are CDs of the concert “Solidarity with Belarus”, printed sources “Basics of United Democratic Forces’ strategy”, “Draft resolution of the Democratic Forces Congress”, a bulletin “Free Thought”, and books “Letters from the forest” (by Paval Sevyarynets), and “Accidental President” (by Svyatlana Kalinkina and Paval Sharamet).

“It all reminds a broad action, even an unprecedented one, as I have never heard before such a procedure to be started by the KGB organs. It is possible it is an attempt to create a new scheme of persecution, I do not know,” one of the suspects Andrzej Piscalnik said in an interview to Radio Svaboda.

“The main thing is what consequences these civil proceedings would have. If it would end in destruction of the confiscated materials only, in would be one thing, and if the court would take a different decision, and it would really speak about extremism, it would mean prosecution in the courts,” Andrzej Piscalnik explained.

As we have informed, analogous writs to Hrodna court of Kastychnitski district have been received by young activist Yauhen Skarabutan from Zelva and the UCP member Uladzimir Laryn from Hrodna last weekend; on Friday September 13 – by student of Bialystok University Alyaksei Trubkin, on Thursday September 12 by a journalist Andrzej Piscalnik.

In the case of Yauhen Skarabutan the court asks to establish facts that the materials confiscated from him, a CD with the concert “Solidarity with Belarus”, a booklet “Basics of the strategy of the United Democratic Forces”, a booklet “Free Thought”, “Draft of the United Democratic Forces Congress’ resolution”, a book by P. Sevyarynets “Letters from the wood”, have extremist contents.

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In the end of the year 2006 a personal computer was seized from Alyaksei Trubkin’s apartment, and only now it has become known that files of allegedly “extremist” character had been found in the computer. “graphic and text files on activities of an unregistered youth organisation Young Front, video footage of Nazi Germany, video clips of hooliganism by football fans, video footage of unsanctioned demonstration were found, and so on”.

Books and CDs confiscated from Alyaksei Trubkin were found “extremist” as well. Among “detrimental” was a book “Review of human rights violations in Belarus in 2004”, as it contains “a great number of photo materials on mass unsanctioned protest rallies in the Republic of

Belarus, and materials with a call to seize the state power in an unconstitutional way and to organize mass riot”.

18.09

► Activists of the “**European Belarus**” civil campaign **Stsyapan Lauretski** and **Vadzim Sakolin** were arrested for posting “Boycott!” stickers were arrested in the Savetski district of Minsk at night 18 September.

Physical force was used towards them during the arrest: they were beaten with truncheons at legs and backs. They were taken away cell phones, and had no opportunity to phone to relatives or friends. The young people were guarded to the Savetski district militia department, where a report upon article 23.34 of the Code of Administrative Offences “violation of order of organisation of a mass event or a picket” was drawn against them.

The activists were seized a pack of “Boycott!” stickers. They were asked where they had got stickers from, were pressed psychologically and threatened: ‘You will be sorry for this! We will spoil your lives!’ and kept in a cell till 10 am. After that they were guarded to the Savetski district court.

The court sentenced each of them to a fine of 1,050,000 Belarusian rubles (500 dollars). Moreover, the “European Belarus” activists were given only receipts instead of legal judgements, so they can’t pay fine.

The “European Belarus” activists are going to send complaints to observers of the ODIHR OSCE mission.

This event is a proof of divergence between official statements of the authorities and actions of law enforcement bodies.

► On September 18th **Andrei Levinau**, candidate in Vitebsk-Chyhunachnaya district # 19 was handed a copy of the report about administrative infringement under Article 9.1 of the Administrative Code. The article provides for up to 15 days of imprisonment. Andrei is accused of inflicting trivial injuries to A. Zakharau, master of sports in boxing, striking him in the small of the back on August 8th. On September 19th the report and the case materials will be sent to court which is to consider them on the day of receipt.

19.09

► Candidate in Vitebsk-Chyhunachnaya district # 19 **Andrei Levinau** produced 300 campaign posters. However, in the majority of cases it turned out it is impossible to post them. Heads of state institutions and organizations either refuse to post them or allow doing that, but call the next day, apologize and say they have to take them down on the order of the local administration. Andrei Levinau made 112 inquiries if he could post his campaign poster. In 109 cases he was refused. In 3 cases posters were allowed, but in one of them the decision was cancelled later. What happened with the poster in Pryvakzalny market of Vitebsk is quite revealing. With the permission and under supervision of deputy market director Levinau posted his poster near the market entrance. Soon the poster disappeared. The deputy director explained, she had received such “instructions” “from higher officials”. The team did not manage to post the posters at the doors of post offices and Vesta stores. Top managers of these organizations claim, they are not competent of making such decisions on their own. Director of store Vesta # 81 explained, even if she received the instructions to come to work naked she would do what she was told, because she really wanted to keep the job.

Police department of Chyhunachny rayon of Vitebsk, where Andrei Levinau had served as a police officer until recently, also refused to post his poster. Some organizations explain, they can post only the campaign materials they have received from the local administration. When they are asked, whose poster they had already received that way, they show the posters of the official candidate Siarhei Siamashka. The candidate had to address the district commission with a complaint about counteraction he experienced with his campaign.

21.09

► On September 21st, 9.50 a.m. Drahichyn police detained two activists near the entrance to the city market. **Ales Ramanovich**, agent of BPF candidate **Uladzimir Kazeka** (Dnepra-Buhskaia district # 10), and his team activist **Vasil Prakopchyk** were detained for distribution of Kazeka's campaign materials. The detained were taken to Drahichy police department. The police officers explained the detention in a very strange way: they claimed, campaigning is banned at work places. However, they failed to explain, whose work places they were referring to.

Quite unexpectedly, head of ideology apartment of the rayon executive committee Dziyom stood up for the detained. He demanded from the police to release the activists. In 40 minutes Ales Ramanovich and Vasil Prakopchyk were set free. Candidate Uladzimir Kazeka plans to file complaints to the district commission and prosecutor's office about unlawful detention of his team members and obstacles in campaigning.