

Human Rights Violations in Belarus 22-28/07

22nd of July

➤ Three hours spent under age activist **Stas Senakosau** in Leninski district militia station. Militia reported that activist pasted Young Front stickers. But Stas managed to inform his friends that he was detained just because he was wearing t-shirt “Jive Belarus” (Long Live Belarus). Activist was released when his mother arrived to militia station.

It was not first time, when Stas detained for “Jive Belarus” t-shirt.

➤ **Zmitcer Antonchik** was interrogated by KGB major Zhukov. Besides questions about blast on the 3rd of July he was fingerprinted. Zmitcer considers it to be done with the breaking of existing laws because he was questioned not as the suspect but as a witness.

Besides Antonchik in Mogilev region the head of city branch of BNF Zmitcer Salaeu was also interrogated by KGB major Igar Grabaeu.

23rd of July

➤ Apartment of **Zhanna Papova**, director of “Vitsebski Kuryer” printing house, was searched.

The search was carried out by people in civvies. As it was found out, there was a militia major from Minsk Committee on Organised Crime and Corruption among them. A warrant for search was signed by the prosecutor of the region. Footage of the search was taken.

As it has been revealed, the search was carried out in the connection with blasts in Vitsebsk in 2005. Computer information media, namely CDs, DVD-disks, USB flash drives and a hard disk, were seized.

The search was started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.35 noon.

➤ **Kastus Zhukovsky** – Gomel coordinator of “Belarusian Christian Democracy” was fired from job. He had worked as a taxi-driver for a year. His boss said that Kastus was spreading leaflets and someone brought it to him and demanded to fire Kastus. He said me to choose whether to stop political activity or to fire.

The head of the firm where he had worked refused to give any comments.

During the elections in September Kastus is going to become a deputy of the parliament and he thinks the pressure on him is connected with this fact.

24th of July

➤ The police detained **Zmitser Vinahradau**, head of Minsk regional BPF branch. He was detained on Vileika-Miadzel highway near Brusy village. Vinahradau was riving to Vileika district election commission in order to submit the new list of his initiative group. The commission did not register Vinahradau's first initiative group on July 24th: under the pressure of the executive authorities one of the group members claimed he had been included in the list against his wish.

The policemen told Vinahradau they had been ordered to detain him. The official version of the detention was that the car was registered as stolen. They are checking the car now. Vinahradau will not be able to submit new application, as the deadline ends tonight.

25th of July

➤ The member of the Belarusian Popular Front **Vital Karatysh** was handed in an order to come to military enlistment office to be transferred to army.

The activist had medical examination yesterday, the results of which showed he has physically restricted status, but is still able-bodied for military service. Vital Karatysh was going to run in the "parliamentary elections" in 2008 in Luninets electoral district 12. On 23 July he received certificate for members of his initiative group and was going to gather signatures for his nomination.

"I have already registered my initiative group," Vital Karatysh says. "It consists of 41 members. It is more than my opponents representing the authorities. They probably think I am too strong candidate, so they decided to withdraw me from the electoral campaign by drafting into army. It has been the first case in our district when a man was transferred to army on the second day after the medical examination.

➤ A Brest court threw out human rights defender **Raman Kislyak's** complaint about a lack of venues for demonstrations in the city.

As Mr. Kislyak told, the Leninski District Court said that the matter did not fall within its jurisdiction.

The activist went to court after the Brest authorities banned an opposition rally at the center of the city, referring to a directive whereby the city's mass events may be held at the remote Lakamatyw stadium surrounded by a high fence.

➤ **Vital Amialkovich**, observer at Slutsk election district # 74 found out, A. Yurevich, member of pro-democratic BSDP H, had some problems while creating his initiative group. The authorities put pressure on some members of his initiative group in order not to let them work in Yurevich's team.

For instance, employee of Slutsk city musem Vasil Tsishkevich was warned that if he worked in Yurevich's team he would most likely be fired from his job. The warning was given by deputy head of Slutsk district executive committee Piotr Dauhuchyts.

Similar warning was received by Sviatlana Trafimava, Slutsk resident. She was warned by one of her bosses that she would lose her job as deputy chief doctor at Salihorsk birth center in case she joined the team of the pro-democratic candidate.

27th of July

➤ More than 60 youth activists were detained near Barysau (the Minsk region) by riot militia.

The young people were having rest and participated in a role playing game “Youth republic” – they learnt principles of a democratic country, learnt how to carry out political reforms and run in electoral campaigns. The event was organised with the help of the “European Belarus” civil campaign.

All detained people were guarded to the Barysau militia department. As activist of the “European Belarus” civil campaign Zmitser Barodka said, activists had their identities established, fingerprints and explanations taken and in the militia department. Administrative reports on violation of fire security (building fire in forest) were drawn up. This offence is punished by fines. All detained activists were released from militia department in the evening.

28th of July

➤ Youth activists **Yaraslau Hryshchenya, Artsyom Lastavetski and Yauhen Spasyuk** were brutally beaten up at night, when they were spreading leaflets “Freedom to Andrei Kim!”

As the boys said, at 2 am five young men run into the house where the activists were dropping leaflets into mailboxes. They stroke the activists to the ground and began to kick them. The fight lasted for some minutes, after that hooligans went away. The boys referred to militia patrol for help, but heard in response: “We know Lastavetski and Hrashchenya, they deserve to be beaten. So you may thank yourselves for it...”

The boys got numerous hematomas, moreover, Yauhen Spasyuk has his nose broken. The activists are going to record the injures and appeal to militia with a demand to find offenders, the Young Front’s website reports.

Alyaksei Spasyuk, Yauhen Spasyuk’s brother, was detained in another city district at that night. He was found about 1000 leaflets with information about Andrei Kim on him. The court punished the boy with a fine of 15 basic units.