

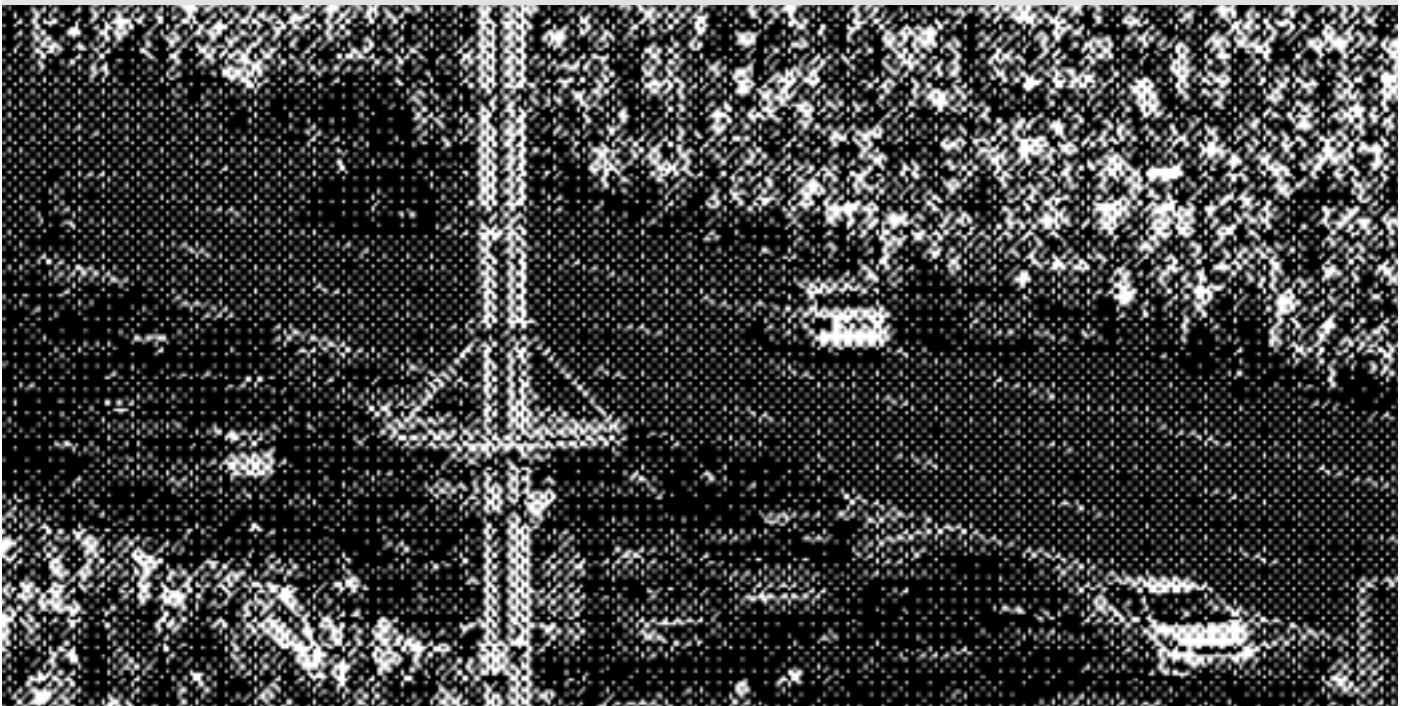
International
Accountability
Platform

for

Belarus

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INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY PLATFORM FOR BELARUS (IAPB)



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Who is the International Accountability Platform for Belarus and what is its objective?

The IAPB is a consortium of independent non-government organisations that have joined forces to collect evidence of gross human rights violations constituting crimes under international law allegedly committed by Belarusian authorities in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and during the ensuing years. Its objective is to achieve accountability of perpetrators for serious violations of human rights and international criminal law in Belarus, and redress for the victims.

- 1** The IAPB collects, consolidates, verifies, preserves and analyses evidence of gross human rights violations constituting crimes under international law allegedly committed by Belarusian authorities and others in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in the ensuing years.
- 2** The IAPB applies a survivor-centered and trauma-informed approach and provides mental health and psychological support to victims and witnesses, including access to referral pathways.
- 3** The IAPB directly supports national prosecution authorities and international human rights and accountability bodies in their investigation of international crimes in Belarus by making available tailored evidence, information and analytical products.
- 4** The IAPB promotes accountability by national, regional, and international courts, tribunals and human rights bodies.
- 5** The IAPB continuously builds the capacity and enhances the working methodology of the partner organisations in the documentation and analysis of violations.

Why was the IAPB created?

The IAPB was created in March 2021 in response to an Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Moscow Mechanism report on human rights violations in Belarus dated 5 November 2020, which called for accountability for the serious violations of international law in Belarus, and for the documentation and preservation of evidence to this end.

Who are the consortium partners?

The consortium is composed of two Belarusian and one international co-lead organisations, Human Rights Center Viasna, International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus and REDRESS, and its lead organisation DIGNITY – Danish Institute against Torture.

What is unique about the IAPB?

- The IAPB is the first of its kind – a civil society accountability platform that documents international crimes on a nation-wide scale. Akin to a start-up and built from scratch, it collects and analyses information and evidence of international crimes with a survivor-centred approach at its core.
- The application of international criminal law as its legal framework distinguishes the platform from other documentation initiatives, most of which are related to armed conflicts and the framework of international humanitarian law.
- The IAPB operates drawing on the expertise and credibility of local human rights organisations, who enjoy the trust of the victims due to the organizations' proximity to the victims and context-knowledge. Simultaneously, the IAPB draws on the specialist international criminal law expertise and network of international organisations.
- The large-scale collection of information and evidence, which is stored in a searchable closed-source database and a secure digital catalog of open-source materials, is another feature that sets this initiative apart from others.
- The IAPB's unique set-up allows accountability mechanisms to access comprehensive information and evidence collected using rigid quality control and adhering to criminal law admissibility standards.

What evidence and information are the IAPB gathering and compiling?

- 1 Interviews with victims and witnesses
- 2 Documents, medical reports, photos and audio-visual files provided by interviewees
- 3 Open-source investigation to verify data provided and proactively research relevant information
- 4 Analytical products produced upon request of prosecutors and other accountability bodies

How many requests has the IAPB received and to who has the IAPB provided information so far?

- 8 requests for assistance from 5 States
- 1 submission to the International Criminal Court
- 5 requests for information from the UN Group of Independent Experts on Belarus (prior OEB)
- 1 request from the OSCE Moscow Mechanism
- 2 cases represented by lawyers

How is the IAPB funded?

Since its establishment, the IAPB is or has been supported by a wide range of States, notably Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as the European Union.

What are the principles of IAPB's evidence gathering?

- Criminal justice standard/ individual criminal responsibility
- Informed consent
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)–compliant
- Chain of custody (documenting the sequence of custody of physical or electronic evidence)
- Survivor–centered, trauma–informed and gender–responsive approach
- Human rights compliant methodology

What are the IAPB's main achievements so far?

- The IAPB has been **set up from scratch** as a documentation and analytical platform since models or master documents were not available, establishing databases, tools, standard operating procedures, informed consent procedures etc.
- **Comprehensive training** has been provided to the Belarusian co-leading organisations in order to enable them to implement their role professionally, safely and in a survivor–centered manner.
- The IAPB has been able to gain the **trust of victims and witnesses**, providing their testimony for the pursuit of accountability to IAPB partners. As of 30 December 2024, more than 2,640 **interviews** have been conducted with victims and witnesses, transcripts produced and translated, tagged according to pre-determined criteria and securely stored and organised in the IAPB database.
- The IAPB has provided **evidence–based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)** to 600 survivors since its establishment, providing referral pathways.
- The IAPB has absorbed over 29,000 **closed–source documents/files** (as of 30 December 2024), comprising medical documents, court and other official documents, photos and videos linked to testimonies, which have also been tagged and organised in the database alongside the testimonies.
- Boosting its evidence–base, by 30 December 2024, the IAPB has collected over 1,361,000 items from **open–source research** from 895 sources.
- The IAPB has **provided substantive and comprehensive submissions** to prosecutorial services and international accountability bodies, at their request, receiving complimentary feedback.