International Accountability Platform for Belarus

11th PROGRESS REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
1 April – 30 September 2026

A. HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BELARUS

During the reporting period (April-September 2026), politically motivated prosecutions, misuse of extremism and terrorism legislation, post-release persecution, and transnational repression continued in Belarus. Although 67 detainees convicted in politically motivated trials were pardoned and released, politically motivated prosecutions and restrictive measures persisted.

Politically motivated prosecutions

- As of 26 September 2026, Viasna had documented 8,773 convictions in politically motivated cases since May 2020.
- As of 26 September, 881 political prisoners remained detained, out of 4,815 people who had been recognised as political prisoners since May 2020. Amongst them, 191 were recognised as such between April and 18 September 2026.
- 86 political prisoners received extensions of their sentences under Article 411 Criminal Code since May 2020.

Pardons, Deportations, and Post-Release Repression

- 67 detainees convicted in politically motivated cases were pardoned and released. Releases followed a Belarus-Poland exchange, negotiations with the United States, or pardon requests linked to 'repentance'.
- Former political prisoners reportedly continued to face persecution in the form of travel bans, preventive registration, preventive supervision, passport restrictions, security-service questioning and exposure to employment barriers due to featuring on extremism or terrorism lists.

Misuse of Extremism and Terrorism Legislation

- Between April and 26 September, at least 412 people were added to the 'extremist' list, at least 50 to the 'terrorist' list, and at least 36 entities were denounced as 'extremist formations'.
- The European Humanities University and Swedish International Liberal Centre were designated 'extremist organisations', the former already resulting in 110 individuals being subjected to searches, interrogation and criminal prosecution.
- By end-August, the national list of 'extremist' publications and content exceeded 11,000 web items.

Transnational Repression

- At least 10 people were tried in absentia on politically motivated charges between April and 17 September, while property seizures against exiled Belarusians continued.

- Relatives of former political prisoners also reportedly faced pressure from law enforcement.
- By August, more than 5,000 Belarusians had reportedly been placed on wanted lists of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Russian Federation.

Ukraine-Related Prosecutions

- At least 220 people were convicted between February 2025 and August 2026 in the 'Belaruski Hajun' case concerning monitoring of military movements linked to Russia's war against Ukraine.

International Response and Accountability Developments

- The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus presented his Belarus report to the Human Rights Council in May, addressing a systematic deterioration of human rights, including political repression.[1]
- The European Parliament adopted a June resolution on political prisoners, strongly condemning the continued repression in Belarus and highlighting the case of Aliaksandra Pulinovich, who was detained in 2024 at the age of 16.[2]
- The UN Secretary-General's 2026 report to the Human Rights Council noted an increase in transnational repression of individuals in exile, featuring Belarus among 32 States, and highlighting the persecution of a number of individuals as potentially connected to their engagement with the United Nations.[3]
- In September, the UN Group of Independent Experts reiterated its previous crimes-against-humanity finding and identified criminal justice actors as responsible for systematic human rights violations since 1 May 2020 in a conference room paper.[4]
- More than 130 UN experts, including the Special Rapporteur on Belarus, issued a joint statement on transnational repression, calling on States to protect and assist those targeted.[5]

B. IAPB's KEY DELIVERABLES

Strategic Outcome 1: Consolidate the IAPB's evidence hub by continuing to expand evidentiary sources, centralise the preservation of information and evidence, and analyse crimes under international law committed in Belarus in the context of the August 2020 election and its aftermath.

Evidence-Gathering and Documentation

- 64 survivors/witnesses (18 women and 46 men) interviewed
    - Evidence database now contains 41,876 documents relating to 2,975 witnesses.
    - 1,218 witnesses provided GDPR-compliant informed consent to share their information with accountability bodies.
- 457 witness summaries had been produced by September 2026.

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[1] UN HRC, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus, Nils Muižnieks, "Report on the Situation of human rights in Belarus", A/HRC/62/52, 19-May-2026.

[2] European Parliament, "Resolution on the deteriorating situation of political prisoners in Belarus, in particular the case of Aliaksandra Pulinovich", 2026/2766(RSP), 18-Jun-2026.

[3] UN Secretary-General, "Report on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights", A/HRC/63/62, 20 August 2026.

[4] UN HRC, "The involvement of Belarusian State institutions in human rights violations in the criminal justice process, Group of Independent Experts on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus", A/HRC/63/CRP.1, 14-Sep-2026, para. 17.

[5] United Nations, "Joint Statement by United Nations Human Rights Experts on Transnational Repression", 23 September 2026.

Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT)

- The open-source collection expanded to over 2.34 million items from 1,171 sources.
    - 450,000 videos, 1.130,000 images, 766,000 text items.
- Automated speech recognition has generated 353,403 transcripts from videos containing speech, facilitating comprehensive textual searches of the collection.

Digital Evidence

- Acquisition of significant digital evidence, which may corroborate and supplement existing evidence.
- Establishment of a protocol designed to meet relevant admissibility standards, including through accompanying interviews to establish chain of custody.

Strategic Outcome 2: Expand the range of evidentiary and analytical products, accountability processes and other actors the IAPB's work outputs will effectively serve.

Support to National and International Accountability Mechanisms

- Support of a national police authority investigating a suspect residing in its jurisdiction.
- Continued cooperation with the UN Group of Independent Experts on the Human Rights Situation in Belarus (GIEB), including by providing updated material on key state institutions and the promotions and transfers of state employees.
- The GIEB conference room paper referred to consultations held with and submissions received and noted that it "is particularly grateful to the International Accountability Platform for Belarus for its cooperation and support."
- Provision of a curated collection of open-source resources on women's rights and gender equality to the UN Special Rapporteur on Belarus.
- Continued legal and analytical assistance to an independent lawyer.

Linkage Evidence and Case-Building

- Progress on comprehensive linkage report seeks to identify individuals within Belarusian state structures who, on the evidence presently available, may bear individual criminal responsibility for crimes in Belarus, focusing on civilian mistreatment between 1 May and 31 December 2020 in Minsk city and Minsk region.

Accountability Tools and Publications

- Update of the Paths to Accountability for Belarus report to reflect developments since its initial publication.
- Publication of Questions & Answers Relating to the Investigation of the Situation in Lithuania/Belarus by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, in English and Belarusian.

Strategic Outcome 3: Mainstream a survivor-centred and trauma-informed approach to all aspects of the IAPB's work.

- The IAPB continued to provide survivor-centred and trauma-informed mental health and psychological support (MHPSS), reaching an additional 134 survivors (68 women, 64 men and 2 non-binary) and bringing the total number of beneficiaries supported since the establishment of the Platform to 959.
- Workshop with IAPB's Belarusian co-lead organisations on survivor-centred communication in the context of the ICC investigation, to communicate with victims in a trauma-informed manner about the implications and limitations of the ICC investigation.

Strategic Outcome 4: Ensure creation of standing infrastructure and the sustainability of the IAPB's operations.

Extension of the IAPB until September 2029

- Finalisation of project documentation for 3-year extension of the IAPB to September 2029.
- Revision of consortium structure with REDRESS phasing out as a consortium partner in order to reduce operational costs and to increase the role of Viasna and IC within the Steering Committee. Giving them a majority in a three-member Steering Committee, reflects a gradual transfer of greater responsibility and ownership to the Belarusian partners.
- Development of terms of reference for the reconvened Advisory Council.

Capacity-Building and Partner Cooperation

- Three-day retreat with Belarusian partners addressing the revision of the IAPB's standard operating procedures (SOPs), delivering simulation exercises on initial/short interviews, documentation and analysis of harm, and inhumane acts associated with deportation.

Sharing of Tools, Experience and Lessons Learned

- Further meeting of Working Group on universal jurisdiction in Poland, featuring practical input on developing universal jurisdiction cases and outreach to affected communities.
- Provision of comprehensive feedback to Eurojust, the Genocide Prosecution Network and the ICC on the *Guidelines for Civil Society Organisations – Documenting International Crimes and Human Rights Violations for Criminal Accountability Purposes*, drawing on the IAPB's practical experience of documentation, preservation and analysis.

Advocacy, Networking and International Engagement

- Delivery of a keynote address at the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Preventing Torture and Ill-Treatment in Vienna, drawing on the Platform's experience to highlight multilateral cooperation, survivor-centred documentation and accountability mechanisms.
- Participation in a range of advocacy and networking activities and regular contact with the GIEB and the Special Rapporteur on Belarus.

Communication and Social Media

- Postings across LinkedIn and Bluesky, generating 14,684 impressions and 2,233 engagements, with an average engagement rate of 9.42% (exceeding by far the non-profit benchmark of 3%).
- Growth of combined audience by 118 followers to 1,252, an increase of 9.89%, reaching a significant audience of senior professionals in the non-profit, international affairs, civil society and legal sectors.