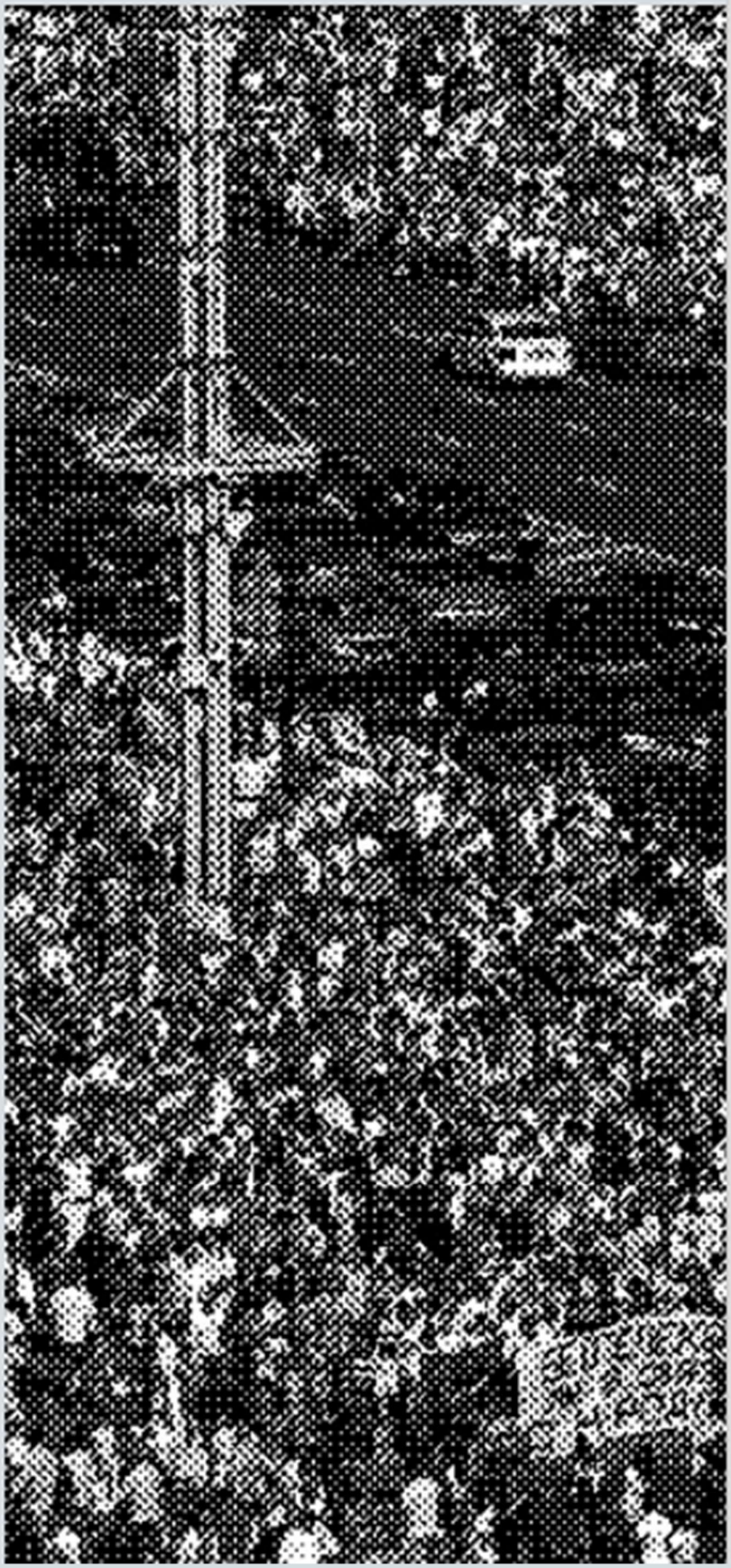
International Accountability Platform for Belarus

11th Progress Report to supporting States

1 April to 30 September 2026



11th PROGRESS REPORT
1 April 2026 to 30 September 2026

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1. Human Rights Situation in Belarus

1.1. Politically motivated prosecutions

As of 26 September 2026, the number of convictions in politically motivated cases documented by Human Rights Center Viasna since May 2020 reached 8,773, resulting in imprisonment, other types of restriction of liberty, fines and compulsory psychiatric treatment imposed for non-therapeutical reasons.[1] People continue to be persecuted for critical statements about Lukashenko and Belarusian officials, for funding allegedly "extremist organisations" and "formations" and for expressing solidarity with Ukraine.[2] Arrests at the border, or shortly after return to Belarus, also continued.[3] For example, Anatol Vaitsiakhouski was detained and convicted under politically-motivated charges after returning to Belarus with the facilitation of the "Return commission".[4]

In addition, the authorities continue to arbitrarily prolong the deprivation of liberty of political prisoners by invoking Article 411 of the Criminal Code ("Malicious disobedience to the requirements of the administration of a correctional facility"). From May 2020 to 26 September 2026, the imprisonment terms of 86 political prisoners were extended under Article 411.[5]

1.2. Political prisoners

As of 26 September 2026, 881 political prisoners remained in detention.[6] Since May 2020, Human Rights Center Viasna has recognised 4,815 persons as political prisoners,[7] 191 between April and 18 September 2026.[8]

1.3. Pardons and deportations

During the reporting period, Lukashenko pardoned and released 67 prisoners who had been convicted of political - among others, extremism-related - crimes.[9] Releases took place on 28 April 2026 (prominent journalist Andrzej Poczobut), 1 July 2026 (28 political prisoners), 16 September 2026

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[1] "List of political prisoners and persons convicted in political criminal cases", *Viasna*, undated. *See also* "Belarus: Experts alarmed at reports of coercive psychiatric treatment as punishment for political dissent", *OHCHR*, 24-Apr-2025.

[2] "Human rights situation in Belarus. July 2026", *Viasna*, 08-Aug-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. August 2026", *Viasna*, 13-Sep-2026; "Advocate Dmitrii Laevskii was sentenced to three years of imprisonment", *Viasna*, 10-Sep-2026; "More than a thousand of convictions for 'facilitations of extremism': what are Belarusians are being sentenced for", *Viasna*, 14-Sep-2026.

3 "They demanded to undress and turned on dashcams: how personal searches on the Belarusian border turned into a mechanism of pressure", Viasna, 20-Aug-2026.

[4] Vaitsiakhouski was convicted under four criminal charges: Article 361 Part 3 ("Calls for sanctions and other actions aimed at harming national security"), Article 367 Part 2 ("Slander against the President"), Article 368 Part 2 ("Insulting the President") Article 361-4 ("Facilitating extremist activities"). *See* "New political convictions, extension of 'extremist' and 'terrorist' lists: chronicle of persecution 23-23 July", *Viasna*, 24-Jul-2026.

[5] The list includes both currently imprisoned and already released political prisoners. *See* "Political prisoners and repressed in Belarus", *Viasna*, undated.

[6] "Political prisoners in Belarus", *Viasna*, undated.

[7] "Political prisoners in Belarus", *Viasna*, undated.

[8] 36 persons in April 2026, 32 – in May 2026, 43 – in June 2026, 39 – in July 2026, 16 – in August 2026, 25 – in September 2026. *See* "Human rights situation in Belarus. April 2026", *Viasna*, 07-May-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. May 2026", *Viasna*, 08-Jun-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. June 2026", *Viasna*, 06-Jul-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. July 2026", *Viasna*, 08-Aug-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. August 2026", *Viasna*, 13-Sep-2026; "Statement of recognition of 14 persons as political prisoners", *Viasna*, 10-Sep-2026; "Statement of recognition of 11 persons as political prisoners", *Viasna*, 15-Sep-2026.

[9] "A 'five-for-five' prisoner exchange took place on the border between Belarus and Poland", *Belta*, 28-Apr-2026; "32 people pardoned in Belarus", *Viasna*, 01-Jul-2026; "25 political prisoners were released: telling about those who were released following a pardon on 16 September", *Viasna*, 16-Sep-2026; "13 political prisoners were pardoned in Belarus", *Viasna*, 24-Sep-2026.

(25 political prisoners) and 24 September 2026 (13 political prisoners).[10]

The release of Andrzej Poczobut on 28 April 2026 happened as a result of an exchange between the State Security Committee of Belarus and the Foreign Intelligence Agency of Poland.[11] He was released and transferred to Poland on Lukashenko's orders, following the journalist's mother's request for a pardon.[12] The releases on 1 July 2026 of 32 individuals, including 28 political prisoners, and on 24 September 2026 of 15 individuals, including 13 political prisoners, followed their "repentance" towards the Belarusian authorities and requests for a pardon.[13] The 25 detainees released on 16 September were freed following negotiations with John Coale, the US President's Special Envoy for Belarus, and transferred to Lithuania.[14]



Polish prime minister Tusk greeting released Andrzej Poczobut at the border.

Among those released on 16 September 2026 were Andrei Aliaksandrau, a journalist; Pavel Belavus, a cultural manager; Yana Pinchuk, who was serving a 12-years sentence for administering protest Telegram channels; Liudmila Chekina, former CEO of TUT.BY; Sviatlana Yakubovich, volunteer of the Human Rights Center Viasna; Anastasiya Lazarenka, lawyer who represented defendants in politically motivated cases; and Kiryl Pazniak, journalist.[15]

1.4. Continued harassment of prisoners following pardons and release

Reports indicate that releases of political prisoners did not end their persecution by Belarusian authorities.

For example, the authorities imposed a travel ban on Mikalai Statkevich, who remained in Belarus following his release from a penal colony.[16] He has been unable to resume receiving pension payments into his bank account because official records continue to indicate that he is serving a sentence in a penal colony.[17]

Political prisoners released on 19 March 2026 reported that they face mandatory regular reporting to agencies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Министерство внутренних дел - 'MVD'), strict monitoring

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[10] "A 'five-for-five' prisoner exchange took place on the border between Belarus and Poland", *Belta*, 28-Apr-2026; "32 people pardoned in Belarus", *Viasna*, 01-Jul-2026; "25 political prisoners were released: telling about those who were released following a pardon on 16 September", *Viasna*, 16-Sep-2026; "13 political prisoners were pardoned in Belarus", *Viasna*, 24-Sep-2026.

[11] "The Belarusian KGB provided details on the "five-for-five" prisoner exchange", *Belta*, 28-Apr-2026.

[12] "Polish citizens Grzegorz Havel and Tomasz Berosa thanked the President of Belarus for their release", *Belta*, 29-Apr-2026. *See also* "Andrzej Poczobut released. Prisoners exchanged with Poland", *Viasna*, 28-Apr-2026. Reportedly, Poczobut traveled to Belarus on 8 September and returned to Poland on 15 September after meeting with his family and fellow members of the Union of Poles in Belarus. (Telegram: View @radiosvaboda; Poczobut Returns to Belarus — Gazeta Wyborcza – REFORM.news; «Обнимали его и плакали». Почобут возвращается в Польшу – как прошел его визит в Беларусь)

[13] "32 people pardoned in Belarus", *Viasna*, 01-Jul-2026; "13 political prisoners were pardoned in Belarus", *Viasna*, 24-Sep-2026.

[14] "Political prisoners released on September 16: journalists, researchers, social activists, and musicians", *Viasna*, 16-Sep-2026.

[15] Political prisoners released on September 16: journalists, researchers, social activists, and musicians", *Viasna*, 16-Sep-2026.

[16] Telegram channel @viasna96, edited at 10:59, 13-Apr-2026, https://t.me/viasna96/34502.

[17] Telegram channel @viasna96, edited at 14:31, 14-Apr-2026, https://t.me/viasna96/34519.

of compliance with restrictions imposed (discussed below), and administrative liability for violations thereof.[18] Political prisoners are reportedly subject to preventive registration (*профилактический учет*), and some of them to court-imposed preventive supervision (*превентивный надзор*).[19] A former political prisoner, remaining in Belarus after being pardoned, reported that the authorities invalidated his passport and refused to re-issue it.[20]

Preventive supervision[21] may entail restrictions such as restriction on attending public events and gathering in groups of more than two people. Breaches may result in administrative prosecution and, potentially, the initiation of criminal proceedings under Article 421 of the Criminal Code ("Non-compliance with the requirements of preventive supervision").[22] Former political prisoners also routinely face refusals from prospective employers because of their criminal records or their inclusion in the extremist or terrorist registries.[23]

Human Rights Center Viasna reported that KGB officers summoned former political prisoners for a "conversation", asked them whether they were in contact with anyone abroad and whether they intended to leave Belarus.[24]

1.5. Misuse of terrorism and extremism legislation

The Belarusian authorities continued to misuse extremism- and terrorism-related legislation to persecute those who oppose, or are perceived to oppose, the current government. Persons listed as "extremists" face restrictions on financial transactions and banking services, are barred from employment in education, public administration, the military, and from practising in certain medical fields.[25] Restrictions remain in force five years after the criminal record has been expunged.[26]

Between April and 26 September 2026, at least 412 persons were added to the "*List of Citizens of the Republic of Belarus, Foreign Citizens or Stateless Persons Involved in Extremist Activities*".[27]

Between April and 26 September 2026, the State Security Committee added at least 50 persons to the "*List of Persons involved in Terrorist Activities*".[28]

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[18] Telegram channel @viasna96, posted at 19:02, 07-Apr-2026, https://t.me/viasna96/34447.
[19] "'Released with permission to remain in Belarus': The reality facing pardoned political prisoners", *Viasna*, 29-Jul-2026.
[20] "'Released with permission to remain in Belarus': The reality facing pardoned political prisoners", *Viasna*, 29-Jul-2026.
[21] "'Released with permission to remain in Belarus': The reality facing pardoned political prisoners", *Viasna*, 29-Jul-2026.
[22] "'Released with permission to remain in Belarus': The reality facing pardoned political prisoners", *Viasna*, 29-Jul-2026.
[23] "'Released with permission to remain in Belarus': The reality facing pardoned political prisoners", *Viasna*, 29-Jul-2026; Telegram channel @viasna96, posted at 16:00, 14-May-2026, https://t.me/viasna96/34963.
[24] Telegram channel @viasna96, posted at 11:05, 24-Jun-2026, https://t.me/viasna96/35480.
[25] "Human rights situation in Belarus. February 2026", *Viasna*, 09-Mar-2026.
[26] "Human rights situation in Belarus. February 2026", *Viasna*, 09-Mar-2026.
[27] 130 individuals were listed in April 2026, 72 – in May 2026, 95 – in June 2026, 66 – in July 2026, 25 – in August 2026, 24 – in September 2026. *See* "Human rights situation in Belarus. April 2026", *Viasna*, 07-May-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. May 2026", *Viasna*, 08-Jun-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. June 2026", *Viasna*, 06-Jul-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. July 2026", *Viasna*, 08-Aug-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. August 2026", *Viasna*, 13-Sep-2026; "11 Belarusians were added to the 'extremists' list: chronicle of persecution on 18 September", *Viasna*, 18-Sep-2026; "An MTBank employee who criticised Russian aggression was convicted of 'inciting hostility': a chronicle of the persecution on September 25", *Viasna*, 25-Sep-2026.
[28] 18 individuals were listed in May 2026, 14 – in June 2026, 1 – in July 2026, 10 – in August 2026, seven – in September 2026. *See* "Human rights situation in Belarus. May 2026", *Viasna*, 08-Jun-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. June 2026", *Viasna*, 06-Jul-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. July 2026", *Viasna*, 08-Aug-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. August 2026", *Viasna*, 13-Sep-2026; "Another extension of the 'terrorists' list: chronicle of persecution on 1 September", *Viasna*, 01-Sep-2026; "Pavel Latushko's daughter's Instagram page was added to the list of "extremist content": a chronicle of the persecution on September 15", *Viasna*, 15-Sep-2026. As of 31 August 2026, of the 1,477 persons currently on the "terrorist list", 723 are Belarusian nationals, who were added for political reasons. *See* "Human rights situation in Belarus. August 2026", *Viasna*, 13-Sep-2026.

At least 36 entities were denounced as extremist formations by the State Security Committee and the Ministry of Internal Affairs between April and 20 September 2026,[29] including human rights organisation Belarusian Helsinki Committee; the humanitarian aid organisation for political prisoners, Volnyja; independent media outlets, the *Belarusian Investigative Center* and *Novy Chas*.[30]

On 14 April 2026, the Supreme Court of Belarus designated the European Humanities University, a Belarusian exiled university now based in Vilnius, as an "extremist organisation."[31] The authorities further initiated a criminal case for "facilitating and financing extremist activities" and continue to investigate the provision and collection of money and other property to support the university since April 2016.[32]

As a result of the designation of the European Humanities University as an "extremist organisation", current and former students, faculty and other persons affiliated with the university are exposed to criminal prosecution in Belarus for their involvement with or support of the university. In fact, by 31 August 2026, 110 individuals have reportedly been subjected to searches, interrogation and criminal prosecution as a direct consequence of the designation of the European Humanities University as an "extremist organisation",[33] including university staff, and current and former students. Parents of students reportedly faced home searches, detention, and interrogation, and students were put under pressure to cooperate with law enforcement.[34]

On 23 April 2026, the Supreme Court of Belarus designated the Swedish International Liberal Centre, a Swedish foundation working internationally on democracy and civil society programmes, as an "extremist organisation".[35]

The "*National List of Extremist Publications and Content*", as of the end of August 2026, contained more than 11,000 web items,[36] penalising the subscription, reporting and "liking" of such materials under Article 19.11 of the Code of Administrative Offences.[37]

1.6. Transnational repression / Belarusians in exile

Transnational repression against Belarusians in exile also continued during the reporting period.

New criminal proceedings were initiated *in absentia* against exiled Belarusians, and between April and 17 September 2026 at least 15 people were tried and convicted[38] on politically motivated charges, with most receiving lengthy prison sentences.[39]

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[29] 23 organisations (one of which belongs to the category of neo-Nazi formations: *NSOOBE Ostenland — Resistance Front in Belarus and the Baltic States*) were denounced as "extremist formations" in April 2026, seven – in May 2026, two – in June 2026, three – in July 2026, one – in August 2026. *See* "Human rights situation in Belarus. April 2026", *Viasna*, 07-May-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. May 2026", *Viasna*, 08-Jun-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. June 2026", *Viasna*, 06-Jul-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. July 2026", *Viasna*, 08-Aug-2026; "Human rights situation in Belarus. August 2026", *Viasna*, 13-Sep-2026.

[30] "Human rights situation in Belarus. April 2026", *Viasna*, 07-May-2026.

[31] "Human rights situation in Belarus. April 2026", *Viasna*, 07-May-2026.

[32] Iuliia Kot, "Human rights defender: 'The only effective means of protection is to refuse to return to Belarus or to be evacuated immediately'", *Solidarnost*, 10-Jun-2026; "Over 175 people targeted in Belarus in crackdown linked to European Humanities University", *Viasna*, 18-Aug-2026.

[33] "Over 175 people targeted in Belarus in crackdown linked to European Humanities University", *Viasna*, 18-Aug-2026.

[34] "Over 175 people targeted in Belarus in crackdown linked to European Humanities University", *Viasna*, 18-Aug-2026.

[35] "Swedish foundation designated 'extremist' in Belarus", *Belsat*, 04-May-2026.

[36] "Human rights situation in Belarus. August 2026", *Viasna*, 13-Sep-2026.

[37] "Human rights situation in Belarus. October 2025", *Viasna*, 06-Nov-2025.

[38] See, e.g., "Human rights situation in Belarus. June 2026", *Viasna*, 06-Jul-2026. "List of political prisoners and persons convicted in political criminal cases", *Viasna*, undated.

[39] "List of political prisoners and persons convicted in political criminal cases", *Viasna*, undated. *See further*, e.g., "Human rights situation in Belarus. June 2026", *Viasna*, 06-Jul-2026.

The authorities initiated special proceedings against, among others, Maryia Kasinerava, a human rights defender with *Dissidentby*;[40] and Pavel Mitskevich, the founder of the organisation supporting migrants from Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia in Poland.[41]

As of August 2026, more than 5,000 Belarusians have been placed on the wanted list of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)[42] and were included in Russia's federal wanted list.[43] These lists include, among others, journalists, human rights defenders and former political prisoners, who were released and subsequently deported from Belarus.[44]

Seizure of property of those convicted *in absentia* also continued.[45] For example, in August 2026, Belarusian authorities confiscated the apartment of opposition activist Pavel Seviarynets in connection with a new criminal case initiated over a speech he had delivered on 25 March 2026 at a rally in Vilnius. Seviarynets had been pardoned and deported from Belarus in 2025.[46] In July 2026, the apartment of Ihar Loban, a former investigator and former BYPOL member, was put on sale by the Belarusian authorities.[47]

Harassment also appears to extend to family members of political prisoners. In August 2026, the *Dissidentby* Human Rights Initiative reported that on the eve of the anniversary of the 2020 protests, law enforcement officials summoned relatives of former political prisoners more frequently for "conversations", threatened them with travel bans, and tried to pressure them to cooperate with law enforcement agencies.[48] Most cases reportedly concern the families of former political prisoners who were deported or left the country to escape further persecution.[49]

1.7. Ukraine-related penal action

At least 220 people were convicted in connection with the "*Belaruski Hajun*" case between February 2025 and August 2026.[50] This refers to a campaign of arrests and criminal charges against individuals who had monitored military movements from Belarusian territory relating to the war in Ukraine on the *Belaruski Hajun* Telegram channel and whose identities were exposed following a data leak in February 2025.[51]

Human Rights Center Viasna shared the account of an individual detained in the *Belaruski Hajun* case, who was beaten at GUBOPiK and subjected to the "swallow position", a painful stress position

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[40] "Human rights situation in Belarus. August 2026", *Viasna*, 13-Sep-2026.
[41] "New political trials and update of an 'extremists' list: chronicle of persecution on 3-6 July", *Viasna*, 06-Jul-2026.
[42] The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is a regional intergovernmental organisation comprising several former Soviet republics, including Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
[43] "Human rights situation in Belarus. August 2026", *Viasna*, 13-Sep-2026.
[44] "Update to the Russian Federation's wanted persons database: it now includes nearly 6,000 Belarusians. Check to see if you or your loved ones are on the list", *Mediazona*.*Belarus*, 13-May-2026; "The MVD has placed Ales Bialiatski on the wanted list", *Radio Svaboda*, 18-Aug-2026.
[45] See, e.g., Telegram channel @viasna_brest, posted at 19:09, 11-Jul-2026, https://t.me/viasna_brest/6414; Telegram channel @viasna96, posted at 18:15, 12-Jul-2026, https://t.me/viasna96/35346; Telegram channel @viasna96, posted at 18:08, 09-Jun-2026, https://t.me/viasna96/35308; "Authorities auctioned off the apartment of journalist Vladimir Hilmanovich, who was convicted in absentia", *BAJ*, 03-Jul-2026.
[46] Telegram channel @vicspring, edited at 12:51, 18-Aug-2026, https://t.me/vicspring/5732.
[47] "Pressure on a Film Director and New Political Trials: chronicle of persecutionon 25-27 July", *Viasna*, 27-Jul-2026.
[48] Telegram channel @dissidentBY, posted at 16:22, 08-Aug-2026, https://t.me/dissidentBY/3115.
[49] Telegram channel @dissidentBY, posted at 16:22, 08-Aug-2026, https://t.me/dissidentBY/3115.
[50] T Telegram channel @viasna96, edited at 16:51, 12-Aug-2026, https://t.me/viasna96/36070.
[51] "Human rights situation in Belarus. February 2026", *Viasna*, 09-Mar-2026; Telegram Channel @viasna96, 12:45, 03-Mar-2026, https://t.me/viasna96/33868; "One year of mass persecution for reporting Russian military movements", *Viasna*, 06-Feb-2026.

in which the hands are restrained behind the back and the upper body is bent towards the ground. He also reported having been stun gunned in the penal colony for his political views.[52]

1.8. International organisations and Belarus

The report of UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus, Nils Muižnieks, was presented on 19 May 2026 during the 62nd session of the Human Rights Council. The report addresses the systematic deterioration of human rights, including political repression, restrictions on freedom of expression and the media, persecution of opposition members and activists via laws countering extremism, violations of prisoners' rights, and discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals and users of the Belarusian language.[53]

The deteriorating situation of political prisoners in Belarus was also subject of a European Parliament resolution adopted on 18 June 2026, which strongly condemned the continued repression of political prisoners in Belarus. Amongst others, it highlighted the case of Aliaksandra Pulinovich, who was detained in 2024, at the age of 16, and sentenced to more than ten years in prison after being accused of involvement in anti-war graffiti actions in the "*Black Nightingales*"[54] case.[55]

Belarus was among the 32 States included in the UN Secretary-General's 2026 report on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights dated 20 August 2026 (A/HRC/63/62), noting an increase in transnational persecution of individuals in exile, which reportedly discouraged family members from engaging with UN human rights mechanisms for fear of reprisals. It referred, as possible acts of reprisal for cooperation with the United Nations, to the designation of the Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers and six lawyers linked to it as "extremist", and also recorded information that the designation of social media accounts of the Human Rights House Foundation as "extremist materials" was reportedly connected to the organisation's engagement with the United Nations. The report further referred to developments concerning Maksim Pazniakou and Aliaksandr Yarashuk of the Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions, as well as Ales Bialiatski and Human Rights Centre Viasna, and recalled the Human Rights Council's call on the Belarusian authorities to refrain from intimidation or reprisals against persons and associations for cooperating with UN human rights mechanisms. The Belarusian Government rejected the characterisation of measures against the Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers and the lawyers concerned as retaliatory and maintained that its counter-extremism measures complied with domestic law and its international obligations.

During its 118th session, on 26 August 2026, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) considered the follow-up report submitted by the Belarusian government on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations included in its Concluding Observations

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[52] "'We'll hand you over to the Russians, and they'll shoot you.' The story of a former political prisoner from the 'Hajun case' about brutal torture in captivity", *Viasna*, 15-Jun-2026.

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

[54] The "*Black Nightingales*" case refers to politically motivated prosecution of seven young people aged 16 to 19 years old for "cooperation with Ukrainian special services." According to the prosecution, six young people had allegedly formed an "anarchist cell '*Black Nightingales*'", which had been created by 16-year-old Ukrainian citizen Maryia Misiuk "under the guidance of the National Liberation Army of Ukraine." *See* "'Black Nightingales.' A group of young people and teenagers in Belarus is accused of treason and terrorism", *Current Time*, 02-Aug-2024. On 2 June 2026, UN human rights experts "expressed particular concern regarding the detention of Aliaksandra Pulinovich, who was only 16 years old at the time of her arrest in connection within the so-called "Black Nightingales" case concerning anti-war graffiti protesting the aggression against Ukraine. She was allegedly subjected to ill-treatment during interrogation, held in prolonged solitary confinement in inhumane conditions, before being sentenced to more than 10 years' imprisonment on terrorism and extremism-related charges." *See* "Belarus: UN experts raise alarm over treatment of political prisoners, urge medical intervention", *UN OHCHR*, 02-Jun-2026.

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

from August 2024.[56] The Committee expressed regret over the lack of information about concrete measures adopted by Belarus in several areas, including in relation to the discriminatory legislation on terrorism and extremism, and guarantees that civil society organisations defending human rights can operate in an enabling environment without undue restrictions.[57] Moreover, the Committee remained concerned that "*certain measures, such as the possibility of depriving Belarusian citizens living abroad of citizenship as a result of a criminal conviction, invalidation of passports and restrictions on the provision of certain consular services, may significantly increase the risk of statelessness*, [...]."[58]

The UN Group of Independent Experts on the situation of human rights in Belarus (GIEB) presented its conference room paper on "*The involvement of Belarusian State institutions in human rights violations in the criminal justice process*" to the Human Rights Council on 18 September during its 63rd session. The experts noted that "*The departments, services and directorates of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, namely the Main Directorate for Combating Organised Crime and Corruption, the police, and the Department for Corrections, as well as the Committee for State Security, the Investigative Committee, the Office of the Prosecutor General and the judiciary, are the main State institutions which play a key role in the criminal justice process of Belarus and have been responsible for systematic human rights violations since 1 May 2020*."[59] The experts also reiterated their previous finding that, "*since May 2020, some of the human rights violations, committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack against a segment of the civilian population, and perpetrated by the Belarusian authorities with knowledge of the attack and that their acts were part of it, amount to the crimes against humanity of persecution and imprisonment*."[60]

On 23 September 2026, more than 130 UN human rights experts, including Nils Muižnieks, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, issued a joint statement on transnational repression. The experts described transnational repression as measures taken by States, within or outside their territories, to silence, deter, punish, coerce, control or otherwise harm individuals, groups or communities abroad on the basis of their actual or perceived opinions, beliefs, identity or activities, including the exercise or defence of human rights. They identified a wide range of methods, including criminalisation, travel bans and restrictions on identity documents and consular services, financial measures, intimidation of family members, misuse of international law-enforcement mechanisms, and digital surveillance and harassment. The experts called on States to prevent, investigate and address such practices, protect and assist those targeted, uphold the principle of *non-refoulement*, and ensure that individuals can safely cooperate with UN and other international and regional human rights mechanisms.

2. Evidence-gathering and analysis

2.1. Victim/ witness interviews

During the reporting period, the IAPB collected information and evidence from 64 survivors/witnesses (18 women, 46 men) regarding alleged crimes under international law. The newly collected interviews provide information on arrests and ill-treatment of detainees, as well as on the deportations of Belarusian and foreign citizens in 2025 and 2026.

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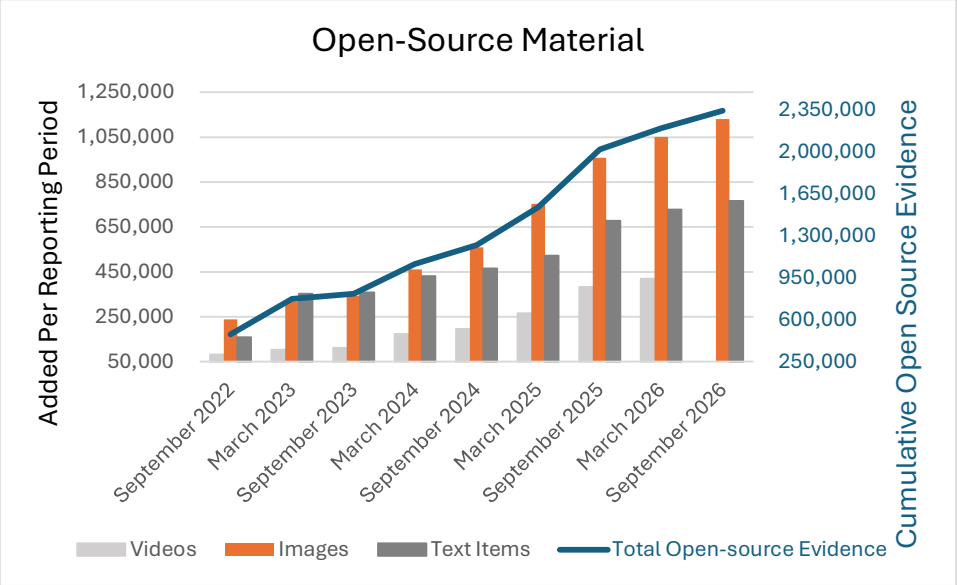
[56] UN CERD, Follow-up letter sent to the State Party, CERD/118th Session/FU/CS/CS/ks, 26-Aug-2026.
[57] UN CERD, Follow-up letter sent to the State Party, CERD/118th Session/FU/CS/CS/ks, 26-Aug-2026.
[58] UN CERD, Follow-up letter sent to the State Party, CERD/118th Session/FU/CS/CS/ks, 26-Aug-2026.
[59] 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.
[60] 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. 177.

To date, the IAPB witness evidence database hosts 41,876 documents, including 3,431 interview transcripts related to 2,975 witnesses. 1,218 witnesses gave GDPR-compliant informed consent for sharing their information with accountability bodies.

The documents in the database include audio-visual materials, medical documents and court records, photographs of injuries, and other relevant items. The records are catalogued for preservation and analysis in the IAPB's closed-source database.

2.2. Open-source information

To date, the IAPB has collected over 2,348,580 open-source items from 1,171 sources. The collection includes over 450,000 videos, 1,130,000 images, and 766,000 text items. Videos containing speech have been processed using automated speech recognition software, resulting in 353,403 transcripts, which facilitates comprehensive textual searches.



This graph depicts the increase of open-source evidence collected during different reporting periods. The left axis presents figures for the current reporting period, while the right axis and blue line depict cumulative figures since the IAPB's establishment.

3. Assistance to accountability mechanisms

3.1. Submissions to national criminal justice authorities

The IAPB has supported a national authority, providing an investigative report analysing the operation and conditions of a relevant institution in Belarus, drawing on witness evidence as well as open-source material and a briefing on key state institutions in Belarus.

Since its establishment, the IAPB has supported six national criminal justice authorities, the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC, the UN Group of Independent Experts on the situation of human rights in Belarus (GIEB) and its predecessor (the OHCHR Examination of the Human Rights Situation in Belarus - OEB), the UN Special Rapporteur on Belarus, an OSCE Moscow Mechanism rapporteur as well as lawyers and civil society organisations engaged with Belarusian victims.

3.2. Linkage report

The Secretariat team have spent a significant proportion of the reporting period progressing a lengthy and complex report on linkage. The report aims to assist national and international prosecuting authorities by identifying individuals within Belarusian state structures who, based on the evidence presently available, may bear individual criminal responsibility for crimes committed in Belarus.

3.3. Support provided to international accountability mechanisms

The IAPB continued its cooperation with the UN Group of Independent Experts on the Human Rights Situation in Belarus (GIEB), the UN investigative mechanism established on 4 April 2024. Within the reporting period, the IAPB participated in consultations and provided its updated materials on the structure of the key state institutions in Belarus, as well as on the promotions and transfers of state employees, that were used in preparation of the GIEB's conference room paper A/HRC/63/CRP.1 published on 14 September 2026. It was reflected in the paper that the Group "held consultations with and received submissions from a number of non-governmental organizations and is particularly grateful to the International Accountability Platform for Belarus for its cooperation and support."

In response to the Special Rapporteur on Belarus' call for submissions to inform the report to the 81st session of the General Assembly relating to women's rights and gender equality in Belarus, on 16 May 2026, the IAPB submitted a curated list of open-source materials relevant to the stated issues. The document provided a detailed list of and links to reports, academic publications, media articles, and other publicly available resources dated between 2020-2024, selected and categorised on the basis of their relevance to the themes outlined in his call for input, providing also short descriptions of content.

During the Interactive Dialogue on 29 June 2026, at the Council's 62nd session in Geneva, the Special Rapporteur recommended that participants look at the paths to accountability laid out by the IAPB, referring to the Paths to Accountability report. [61]

3.4. Support provided to lawyers

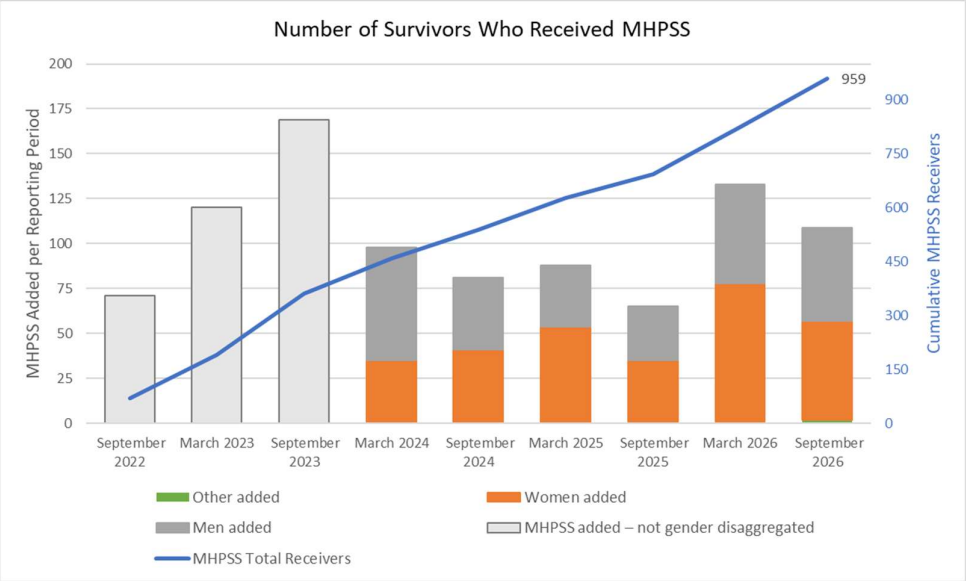
During the reporting period, the IAPB continued to provide support to an independent lawyer who had sought IAPB's assistance in the context of domestic proceedings regarding human rights violations and crimes committed in Belarus since May 2020. In response to a request by the lawyer, the IAPB provided analytical briefs, presenting legal analysis and other information focusing on crimes against humanity.

4. Survivor-centred approach

4.1. Access to mental health and psychological support

The IAPB continues to provide survivors with evidence-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in a survivor-centred and trauma-informed manner. Since 1 October 2025, 109 additional survivors (55 women, 52 men and 2 non-binary) have benefitted from this service, bringing the total number to 959 survivor beneficiaries since the establishment of the IAPB.

[61] 22nd Meeting - 62nd Session of Human Rights Council | UN Web TV



This graph shows the statistics of survivors who received MHPSS across the different reporting periods. The left axis bar present figures for the current reporting period, while the right axis and blue line depict cumulative figures since the IAPB's establishment.

4.2. Workshop on the ICC and survivor-centered communication

As part of the survivor-centred approach to documentation of crimes under international law, REDRESS – on behalf of the Platform – delivered a workshop on survivor-centred communication, which took place in May 2026. The workshop focused on equipping IAPB documenters with the skills to communicate with victims, in a trauma-informed way, about the ramifications of the recent decision of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to open an investigation, in light of the significant subject-matter and geographic limitations.

With the support of experts from the ICC's Victims Participation and Reparations Section (VPRS) and ICC's legal counsel for victims, the workshop enhanced the participants' understanding of victims' rights under the Rome Statute framework, including what victims can realistically expect from the process in terms of outcomes of ICC proceedings in the Belarus situation. Moreover, during the expert-led session, participants gained practical skills in tailoring their communication techniques to the mental state of survivors in order to avoid re-traumatising victims and to deliver information in a trauma-sensitive manner.

4.3. Support to Former Political Prisoners

While the IAPB provides survivors with evidence-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), the rehabilitation and reintegration needs of former political prisoners exceed what the Platform can offer. Its lead organisation DIGNITY implements a dedicated project that provides further support.

5. Extension of the IAPB until September 2029

During the reporting period, the IAPB finalised its project documentation for the extension of its operations beyond phase III, from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2029 (IAPB-2029).

As the IAPB prepares for the continuation of its work beyond the end of Phase III in September 2026, REDRESS has agreed to withdraw from the consortium. This change will help reduce operational costs and provide greater financial flexibility. Compared with the longer-term commitments associated with consortium membership, the revised structure will allow the IAPB to scale certain activities up or down in response to available funding.

Given the maturity of the IAPB's operations after five years of implementation, a second international partner is no longer considered necessary. At the same time, increasing the role of Viasna and IC within the Steering Committee—by giving them a majority in a three-member Steering Committee—reflects the gradual transfer of greater responsibility and ownership to the Belarusian partners.

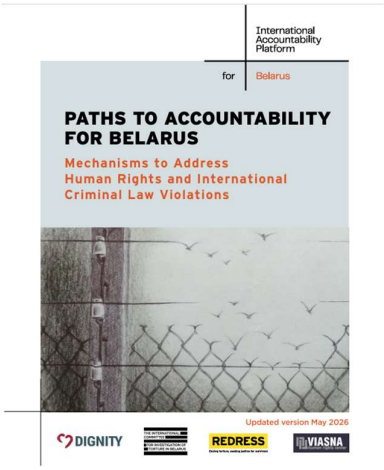
The organisational set-up of the consortium was updated accordingly, laying out the responsibilities and division of labour between the three consortium partners.

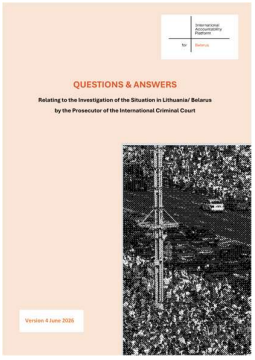
Moreover, implementing a recommendation of the external evaluation conducted in the course of 2025, detailed terms of reference for the reconvened Advisory Council (AC) were developed following consultations with all current AC members. The status of associate member was introduced in order to allow relevant organisations who are not eligible or able to become full members to support and contribute to selected IAPB activities. The reconvened AC will also be able to operate through working groups on specific issues of relevance to the IAPB and the Advisory Council.

6. Publications and communication

6.1. Publications

In May, an **updated** version of the Paths to Accountability for Belarus report was published in order to capture developments since its publication in September 2025, in particular the decision of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to open an investigation into the situation in Lithuania/ Belarus.





In response to the ICC Prosecutor's decision, the IAPB produced and published, in both English and Belarusian, the document "***Questions & Answers*** *Relating to the Investigation of the Situation in Lithuania/ Belarus by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court*".

The document provides detailed information on the implications of the decision of the ICC Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) to open an investigation into the Lithuania/ Belarus situation, as well as the next steps and actions available to civil society organisations.

It outlines and reflects on the scope of the investigation as set out in the OTP's summary of findings and explains anticipated investigative activities and procedural next steps. It also addresses the role of victims during the investigation, including how they may participate at different stages of the proceedings, who may serve as a witness, and which actors within the ICC engage with victims and witnesses.

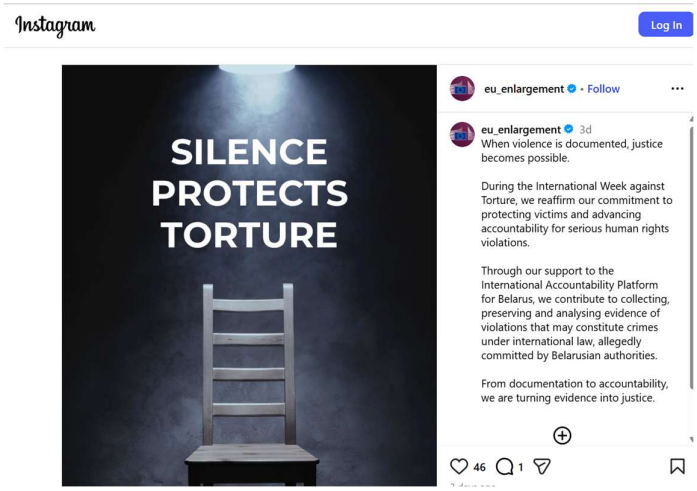
6.2. Communications

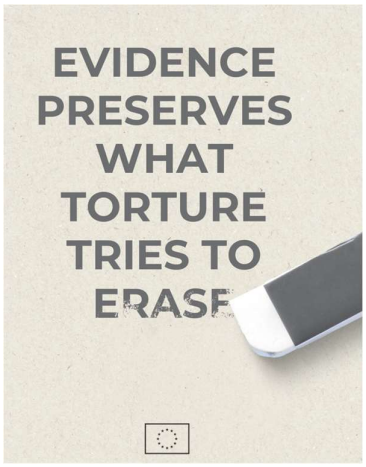
During the reporting period, the IAPB published 19 campaigns across LinkedIn and Bluesky, generating a combined 14,684 impressions and 2,233 engagements, including likes, shares, comments, and link clicks. The average engagement rate per post was 9.42%, exceeding the nonprofit benchmark of 3% considerably, demonstrating strong audience engagement with the Platform's communications.

Key campaigns included the promotion of the IAPB's 10th Progress Report, which generated 5,302 impressions and 1,548 engagements, (average engagement rate of 28.79%); promotion of the report of the Group of Independent Experts on Belarus at the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council generated 1,111 impressions and 108 engagements (engagement rate of 9.73%); and the promotion of the release of Belarusian political prisoners, which gained 1,300 impressions and generated 72 engagements (engagement rate of 7.23%).

During the reporting period, the IAPB gained 118 new followers, bringing its combined audience across LinkedIn and Bluesky to 1,252 followers, an increase of 9.89%. The IAPB also continued to reach key target audience. On LinkedIn, 14.6% of its followers work in the nonprofit sector, 12.5% in international affairs, 9.5% in civic and social organisations, and 9.2% in legal practice. In terms of seniority, 49.7% of followers identify as senior-level professionals, while 10.9% hold director-level positions, indicating that the Platform's content is continuing to reach high-level stakeholders.

On the occasion of the week against torture, including the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June, the European Commission issued postings on X, Instagram and Facebook with references to the International Accountability Platform for Belarus and the EU's support of its collection and verification of evidence of alleged crimes committed by Belarusian authorities. The IAPB shared the postings on its LinkedIn and Bluesky feeds.[62]





[62] LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/iapbelarus_we-are-grateful-for-the-european-unions-activity-7476241590211096576-TFap?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAATnfd4B8PLbESj_QDtquePLJyT3JxwFVd8; Bluesky: https://bsky.app/profile/iapbelarus.org/post/3mp6w3ld4fs2i.

7. Advocacy and networking

IAPB delivered a presentation at the Third Congress on Political Prisoners in Belarus on 22 May and participated at the *BIIM 2026: The Landscape of Belarusian Civil Society: Challenges, Threats, Trends, and Donor Responses* meeting (Belarus International Implementers Meeting) on 1-2 June in Warsaw.

IAPB Representatives travelled to Czechia (April), and Germany (May), to hold meetings with representatives of the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, local civil society partners and other relevant interlocutors, to update stakeholders on the work of the platform and exchange relevant information.

The delivery of a keynote address at the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on *Preventing Torture and Ill-Treatment: Strengthening Co-operation and Implementation*, held in Vienna on 29–30 June 2026 represented a particularly noteworthy engagement. In her remarks, the IAPB Head highlighted the importance of multilateral cooperation, survivor-centred documentation, and accountability mechanisms in combating torture and advancing justice and redress for victims, drawing on the experience of the IAPB. The text of the keynote was made available on the IAPB's website.

The meeting, organised by the Swiss Chair-in-Office of the OSCE and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), brought together participating States, civil society, international organisations and experts to discuss practical measures to prevent torture and ill-treatment, strengthen safeguards, and improve accountability and redress for victims.

Various meetings were held with the experts and staff of the UN Group of Independent Experts on the situation of human rights in Belarus (GIEB), on the planned conference paper on the criminal justice system, which Advisory Council members and other Belarusian partners were invited to join, and more generally exchanging information on trends and current priorities.

A coordination meeting was also held with staff of the Special Rapporteur on Belarus, exchanging relevant information on planned thematic priorities and survivor-related initiatives.

IAPB benefited from its presence in Vienna by attending a side event of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in May on a survivor-centred approach to sexual and gender-based violence, and on transitional justice efforts in Syria. The former provided insights into good practices for documenting and pursuing accountability for sexual and gender-based violence. The latter generated information relevant to the scenario-planning exercise envisaged by the IAPB, regarding Syria's evolving approach to accountability, truth-seeking and reparations following the transition from the Assad regime.

8. Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing

8.1. Capacity-building

In May, the IAPB convened a workshop to discuss the revision of some of the IAPB's standard operating procedures (SOPs). Among other activities, the retreat included a simulation of initial/short interviews, a case study on the documentation and analysis of harm, and a discussion of other inhumane acts associated with the crime of deportation. Beyond its substantive agenda, the workshop proved valuable as an occasion for partners and members of the IAPB Secretariat to work alongside one another in person. Further, it strengthened the working relationships and allowed the

priorities to be aligned across teams.

In the months that followed, the IAPB held five partner briefings on the main elements of the revised SOPs: the integration of initial/short interviews to support more effective planning and preparation of full interviews, the delineation of medical from legal documentation, and chain of custody. The briefings were designed to gather practical feedback from documenters, which has, in turn, directly shaped the documentation process. Drawing on extensive partner experience in evidence collection, SOP provisions were refined where they proved impractical and reinforced where partners identified gaps. As a result, this has strengthened a feedback loop between the Secretariat and partners, which will ensure that the revised SOPs reflect the consortium's collective experience gathered over the years.

8.2. Working Group in Poland

Building on its previous meetings (in Poland and online), another meeting of the working group on universal jurisdiction in Poland took place on 10 June 2026. The online meeting aimed at strengthening members' capacity to engage in universal jurisdiction (UJ) work, including the development of UJ cases and broader support to UJ proceedings in Poland. It featured an expert intervention by FIDH, offering practical guidance on identifying, building, and filing a UJ case, based on FIDH's experience in France relating to the case of Yevhen Brazhnikov, suspected of crimes against humanity, war crimes and complicity in those crimes reportedly committed in a detention facility in Donetsk, which was operated by the self-proclaimed, Russia-backed Donetsk People's Republic.

The meeting also featured a discussion on how civil society organisations can contribute to outreach to communities in UJ cases, which adds value by increasing the evidentiary base and communicating the outcomes of accountability processes to affected communities. Following the meeting, two participating organisations – FIDH and HRHF – partnered to deliver a training for lawyers in exile across the EU on how they can use UJ in their respective jurisdictions.

Following an assessment of the results of the working group meetings to date and consultations with Polish partners, it was agreed that, from October 2026, coinciding with the start of IAPB-2029, REDRESS will assume responsibility for the working group as an activity of the United Against Torture consortium of civil society organisations of which it is a member. This reflects the interest in broadening participation to include country contexts beyond Belarus, such as Ukraine and Gaza, and to cover a wider range of accountability processes and contexts with the goal of advancing international justice in Poland beyond universal jurisdiction.

8.3. Knowledge-sharing

Representatives of the IAPB took part at a Technical Briefing organised by Eurojust on 28 January 2026, in order to disseminate the Guidelines to civil society organisations operating in the relevant regions, to obtain feedback and to engage in an in-depth dialogue on key issues in the field of documentation for criminal accountability purposes.

Following the meeting, the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC, Eurojust, the Genocide Prosecution Network and the National Authorities against Impunity expressed their "*sincere appreciation for the valuable feedback provided by your organization in connection to the 'Guidelines for Civil Society Organisations - Documenting International Crimes and Human Rights Violations for Criminal Accountability Purposes' (in short the 'Guidelines')*."

In fulfilment of its commitment to share its multi-annual experience, the IAPB provided a written

submission with comprehensive input to Eurojust, the Genocide Prosecution Network and the ICC on 11 September. The document compiles feedback from the IAPB on the *Guidelines for Civil Society Organisations*, drawing on the IAPB's practical experience in documenting, preserving and analysing evidence of alleged international crimes and serious human rights violations. It also identifies areas in which the Guidelines could be clarified, strengthened or supplemented to better support the work of civil society organisations.

9. Structure & Resources

9.1. Infrastructure

The IAPB Secretariat team consists of staff and consultants, including the IAPB Head, Project Manager, Senior Legal Consultant, Project Officer, investigators, analysts and a translator. During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to adapt its staffing structure to the operational and substantive needs of the Platform and to prepare for the implementation of IAPB-2029.

Phase III of the IAPB concluded on 30 September 2026. Ahead of the transition, the IAPB presented its IAPB-2029 project proposal to existing and prospective donor States and the European Union, and it continues its fundraising efforts to secure sufficient funding for the Platform's work through September 2029. The IAPB-2029 project builds on the results and lessons learned from the previous phases of the Platform, while ensuring continuity of its core mandate and further strengthening its capacity to collect, preserve and analyse information and evidence concerning alleged international crimes committed by Belarusian authorities.

The Platform is deeply grateful for the continued political and financial support provided by its donor States and the European Union. Since its establishment, the IAPB is and has been supported by a wide range of States, notably (countries in alphabetical order): Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as the European Union.

9.2. Advisory Council

An Advisory Council (AC) meeting was held in June, providing an overview of the work of the platform and of the AC member organisations and discussing trends and patterns of human rights violations.

Another AC meeting was organized in September, communicating to the members the parameters of the IAPB-extension until September 2029, and introducing them to the terms of reference for the reconvened AC.

10.Risks and challenges

The risks identified in previous progress reports continued during the reporting period, with particular concerns regarding the security of Belarusian co-lead organisations, their staff and documenters, as well as survivors and their family members. The operating environment remains highly repressive and individuals connected to documentation and accountability work continue to face risks of surveillance, intimidation and reprisals.

Annex:

BRIEF PLATFORM OVERVIEW

The IAPB is a consortium of independent non-government organisations that have joined forces to collect, verify, preserve, and analyse 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 following years. The objective of the IAPB is to achieve accountability of perpetrators for serious violations of human rights and international criminal law in Belarus, which enables victims/ survivors to seek justice and redress. To this end, the IAPB directly assists criminal justice authorities and international accountability bodies in their investigation and prosecution of alleged perpetrators of these crimes.

The IAPB was created in March 2021 in response to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Moscow Mechanism report on alleged human rights violations related to the presidential elections in Belarus, published on 5 November 2020. The report made a series of recommendations calling for accountability for the serious violations of international law in Belarus, and for the documentation and preservation of evidence to this end.

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.

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

Theory of Change:
The IAPB overall is based on the theory of change that, **if** information and evidence of serious human rights violations and crimes under international law allegedly committed by Belarusian authorities are collected, consolidated, preserved and analysed in accordance with international standards and made available to national and international accountability mechanisms, **then** those responsible can be held accountable for such violations and crimes in accordance with international law, which will in turn enable access to justice for survivor-victims.