

## **The chronology of events related to the persecution, pressure and harassment of activists opposed to the construction of a battery plant in Brest**

The previous review of cases of persecution of activists in Brest since the beginning of the campaign against the battery plant was sent to the Committee on February 14, 2019.

A public campaign against the battery plant began in the region in January 2018. During this time, activists filed applications for holding 294 rallies, 12 pickets and 16 demonstrations in Brest and the Brest region. Authorities authorized only one of them: April 29, 2018 rally "Brest women against the lead", which was attended by about two thousand people.

### **For the period from February 14, 2019, to March 12, 2020, in Brest:**

Activists received a refusal to register a non-governmental organization, as well as a refusal to register an initiative group to conduct a local referendum.

Residents and activists were:

- subjected to fines in a total of 500 b.u. (12 750 Belarusian rubles).
- 21 cases of preventive detention.
- 4 criminal cases. Of these: 1 - on A. Kabanov based on par. 1 art. 211 of the Criminal Code "Assignment or embezzlement" and was terminated for lack of corpus delicti; criminal proceedings against two opponents of the construction of a battery plant near Brest - Moses Mazko and his son Denis Mazko were terminated; against Alexander Kabanov, the criminal case on misappropriation of money of the partnership of homeowners was resumed.
- 3 searches and 1 inspection in the homes of activists and their relatives were carried out.

*Below is a general chronology of events on the persecution of activists related to their activities for the period from February 14, 2019, to March 12, 2020.*

### **Abbreviations in the text:**

CAO — Code of the Republic of Belarus on Administrative Offenses

ROVD - district department of the internal affairs

PDD — traffic rules

OMON — a special police unit

b.u. — the basic unit (from January 01, 2019, to January 01, 2020 - amounted to 25.5 Belarusian rubles, from January 01, 2020, is 27 Belarusian rubles)

## **Chronology of facts of persecution, pressure on Brest activists:**

- 18.02.2019 — the court of the Leninsky district of Brest found the human rights activist Vladimir Velichkin guilty of violating the procedure for organizing or holding mass events. He was fined for 15 b.u. (382.5 rubles).
- 27.02.2019 — the Brest district executive committee has banned the holding of three demonstrations against the battery plant. Demonstrations "The plant shouldn't be here" were planned one by one on March 2-4 near the enterprise under construction.
- 01.03.2019 — the Brest City Executive Committee banned the holding of five rallies against the battery plant. One was planned on March 1, two on March 2 and 3. Everything was planned on the site near the stage in the Park of Internationalist Warriors, defined by the local authorities as a place for holding mass events under the legislation.
- 03.03.2019 — Ales Levchuk and Milana Kharitonova were detained for “working for a foreign media without accreditation”, implying the Belarusian-speaking TV channel "Belsat".
- 07.03.2019 — searches were conducted at the houses of parents and girlfriend of Alexander Kabanov.
- 10.03.2019 — the Brest city executive committee has banned rallies against the construction of a battery plant near Brest. Applications were submitted on all working days, from March 11 to March 15. The authorities refused under the pretext that these days the park will be landscaping, and specifically - sanitary cutting will be conducted.
- 10.03.2019 — the police inspected the house of the parents of Alexander Kabanov.
- 11.03.2019 — a criminal case against Alexander Kabanov was initiated under p. 1 of art. 211 of the Criminal Code “Assignment or embezzlement”.
- 25.03.2019 — for a notice on the organization of five rallies on March 25-29 in Brest near the stage in the park of Warriors-Internationalists, the Brest city executive committee said that their holding was impossible in connection with landscaping. The Brest district executive committee banned the March 31 rally in the Telmy village at the stadium of the Pribuzhie sports school, on the grounds that there would be another event.
- 03.04.2019 — the Brest inter-district department of the Investigative Committee initiated proceedings under p. 2 of art. 295 of the Criminal Code (illegal actions against firearms, ammunition and explosives) against Moses Mazko. Moses Mazko was detained.
- 04.04.2019 — from 22:30 to 23:00 in Telmy (Brest region), a search was carried out in a construction trailer on a plot of land owned by Denis Mazko (the son of the opponent of the construction of the battery plant Moses Mazko near Brest). Nothing is seized. Denis was detained.
- 07.04.2019 — Denis Mazko was released from the temporary detention centre of the Leninsky District Department of Internal Affairs of Brest.
- 07.04.2019 — Dmitry Bekalyuk arrived at the Leninsky District Department of Internal Affairs in Brest at 15:00 to give explanations about whether another activist, Tatsiana Fesikova, was distributing balloons to the opponents of the battery plant construction on March 31 in Brest on Lenin Square. At 17:30 he informed his wife that he was detained.
- 09.04.2019 — the Leninsky District Court refused to register an initiative group to conduct a local referendum.
- 12.04.2019 — were detained and placed in a temporary detention centre before the trial: Dmitry Androsyuk, Vladimir Kozlovsky, Denis Malashenko, Sergey Svirsky, Vladislav Abramovich, Oleg Ermolenko, Demyan Lepesevich, Ekaterina Basargina, Oleg Vyalov and

human rights activist Vladimir Velichkin. Protocols on them were compiled under art. 23.34 of the CAO (violation of the procedure for organizing or conducting mass events) for participating on April 7 in a procession of opponents of the plant.

- 14.04.2019 — Alexander Kabanov, Dmitry Bekalyuk were detained. Protocols on them were compiled under art. 23.34 of the CAO (violation of the organization or conduct of mass events). Tatyana Fesikova and Alexander Ablyak were also detained.
- 15.04.2019 — Anatoly Ermolenko fined 30 b.u. (765 r.) for participating on April 7 in a procession of opponents of the construction of a plant along central streets in Brest.
- 15.04.2019 — Nikolai Trotsyuk fined 10 b.u. (255 r.) for participating in the procession of opponents of the construction of the plant on April 14.
- 21.04.2019 — by 10:30 and 11:00 at least eight activists were called to the Leninsky District Department of Internal Affairs, including Lyudmila Karchevskaya, Vladimir Moroz, Alexander Marochevsky and Alexander Kozlyanko.
- 24.04.2019 — the court of the Leninsky district of Brest ruled on cases under art. 23.34 of the CAO (violation of the organization or conduct of mass events) in relation to Oleg Vyalov and Dmitry Androsyuk. Vyalov fined for 25 b.u. (637.5 r.), Androsyuk - 40 b.u. (1,020 r.). The same court fined Vitaliy Kazak for 30 b.u. (765 r.) and Victor Sender - by 5 b.u. (127.5 r.) for participating in a similar procession of opponents of the construction of this plant on April 14 in Brest.
- 25.04.2019 — the Leninsky District Court found Tatyana Fesikova guilty under part 2 of art. 23.34 of the CAO (violation of the procedure for organizing or conducting public events) and fined for 30 b.u. (765 r.) for distributing yellow balloons on March 31 at Lenin Square, where opponents of the battery factory were gathering that day. Ekaterina Basargina was fined 5 b.u. (127.5 r.) also under art. 23.34 of the CAO.
- 25.04.2019 — Egor Kondratyuk was found guilty under part 1 of art. 23.34 of the CAO and fined for 10 b.u. (255 r.) for participating in the procession of opponents of the construction of the battery plant, which took place on April 14 along the central streets of Brest.
- 27.04.2019 — Denis Malyshenko, Sergey Svirsky, Vladimir Kozlovsky, Demyan Lepesevich and human rights activist Vladimir Velichkin were fined for participating in a procession of opponents of the battery plant on the central streets of Brest on April 7. The court has appointed Malyshenko and Svirsky fines of 10 b.u. (255 r.) and for Kozlovsky, Lepesevich and Velichkin — 30 b.u. for each (765 r.).
- 27.04.2019 — Dmitry Bekalyuk, one of the leaders of the initiative group of opponents of the battery plant, was detained and placed in a temporary detention centre. According to preliminary information, the reason for the detention of Bekalyuk was the administrative process under art. 23.34 of the CAO (violation of the organization or conduct of mass events).
- 29.04.2019 — the notice of the rally submitted to the Brest City Executive Committee on April 19 was rejected in connection with the violation of the 5-day deadline established by law for notification of the refusal to hold the rally before the rally itself.
- 29.04.2019 — the Leninsky District Court found Vladislav Abramovich guilty of violating art. 23.34 of the CAO (violation of the procedure for organizing or conducting mass events) and fined 10 b.u. (255 r.) for participating in a procession of opponents of the battery plant on April 7.
- 30.04.2019 — five opponents of the construction of the battery plant, including human rights activist Roman Kislyak, were summoned to the prosecutor's office in Brest. All five in the

prosecutor's office received an official warning about the inadmissibility of violating the law "On mass events" regarding the planned rally on May 1.

- 02.05.2019 — the Brest district executive committee banned a rally on May 5 against the construction of a battery plant in connection with “another event planned earlier at the stadium at the same time”. The action was planned in the Telmy near Brest, at the stadium of the “Pribuzhie” youth sports school, which is defined as a permanent venue for mass events.
- 12.05.2019 — Brest authorities have banned 16 rallies against the battery factory. One rally was planned on May 12 in the Brest region in Telmy at the “Pribuzhie” youth sports school stadium and was banned “in connection with another event planned there that day”. Also, another 15 rallies were planned to be held from May 13 to 17 (three daily) in Brest at a venue near the stage in the Park of Internationalist Warriors, but these rallies were refused in connection with “anti-mite events” in this place.
- 20.05.2019 — the court of the Leninsky district of Brest accused Lyudmila Karchevskaya on the basis of part 3 of art. 23.34 of the CAO (violation of the organization or conduct of mass events) and fined for 20 b.u. (510 r.).
- 22.05.2019 — the court of the Leninsky district of Brest found the activist Alexander Marachevsky guilty of participating in the procession of opponents of the battery plant on April 7 and 14 and was fined 10 b.u. (255 r.).
- 24.05.2019 — the court of the Leninsky district of Brest fined activist Pavel Keskevich 10 b.u. (255 r.) for participating in a procession of opponents of the battery plant on April 7.
- 27.05.2020 — the court of the Brest region fined Anatoly Ermolenko for 10 b.u. (255 r.) for participating in the procession on the April 14th.
- 28.05.2019 — the application submitted to the regional executive committee with a request to arrange a meeting with Anatoly Lis (Chairman of the Brest regional executive committee) was rejected due to the “inexpediency of such a meeting”.
- 30.05.2019 — the Brest Regional Court upheld the ruling of the Leninsky District Court of Brest, which fined Tatyana Fesikova and Yegor Kondratyuk under part 2 of art. 23.34 of the CAO (violation of the procedure for organizing or conducting public events).
- 31.05.2019 — the Leninsky District Court fined Alexander Kozlyanko for violating the procedure for organizing mass events by 8 b.u. (204 r.) for participating in the procession on April 7, as well as 2 b.u. (51 r.) for avoiding appearance in the body conducting the administrative process.
- 02.06.2019 — during a Sunday rally against the battery factory, Sergey Petrukhin was detained and taken to the Leninsky District Department of Internal Affairs, where a protocol was drawn up against him under art. 17.1 of the CAO (minor hooliganism) and placed in a temporary detention centre.
- 03.06.2019 — the Brest Regional Court dismissed the appeal against the decision of the Leninsky district court dated April 09, 2019, regarding the registration of an initiative group to conduct a local referendum.
- 03.06.2019 — activist Eduard Silitsky was brought to administrative responsibility in the form of a fine of 5 b.u. (127.5 r.) for violation of part 1 art. 23.34 of the CAO (violation of the organization or conduct of mass events).
- 05.06.2019 — the Brest Regional Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, in a memorandum dated 06.06.2019, informed the Brest Regional Executive Committee about the excess of air emission standards by “IPower” LLC.

- 08.06.2019 — the criminal case against Alexander Kabanov under part 1 of art. 211 (assignment or embezzlement) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus was closed for the lack of corpus delicti.
- 15.07.2019 — the trial against Dmitry Bekalyuk and Demyan Lepesevich began in a lawsuit from “IPower”, who considered that in the video “The main haemorrhoids of the city of Brest,” the information affects their honour and dignity. Although nothing is known precisely, since no activists did not come and the trial and it took place in their absence, and the court also refused to request the presence of third parties in the process, namely Konstantin Zablotsky and blogger Sergei Petrukhin.
- 25.07.2019 — activists opposed to the construction of the battery plant were denied registration of the EcoBrest public organization.
- 14.08.2019 — the activist Maria Gololyuk, who patrolled near the battery factory, was attacked. This happened when Maria shot on the phone the aggressive behaviour of the attacker against another activist who put his car in such a way as to prevent the truck from leaving the plant.
- 24.09.2019 — the commission of the Education Department of the Leninsky district administration came to the activist’s Maria Galalyuk’s apartment in order to see the conditions in which the activist’s youngest daughter lives. According to the official version, the reason for this is an article on the Internet that says that Maria is an active participant in the movement against the battery plant.
- 04.10.2019 — the criminal case against two opponents of the construction of the battery plant near Brest - Moses Mazko and his son Denis Mazko was terminated. Activists were suspected of illegally acquiring 30 sporting and hunting cartridges, which are ammunition for pistols, hunting rifles and carbines, combined hunting rifles, under unclear circumstances, and illegally storing them in a car.
- 14.10.2019 — the Brest District Court brought to administrative responsibility Konstantin Ostapuk who pronounced the phrase “No to the battery factory!”, with which he greeted one of the activists, which in the context was equated with the concept of “mass event”. Court ruling - 30 b.u. (765 r.).
- 17.10.2019 — of the four opponents of the battery factory who wanted to participate in parliamentary elections in four constituencies, only Vladimir Moroz was registered as a candidate for deputy. The blogger Alexander Kabanov, human rights activist Roman Kislyak and activist Elena Makarevich were denied registration.
- 17.10.2019 — the traffic police stopped Dmitry Bekalyuk based on police bulletins, which noted that he was drunk while driving so that he couldn’t get to the battery plant in the evening of that day to pick up the necessary documents.
- 21.10.2019 — against the blogger and activist from Bereza Alexander Kabanov, the criminal case was resumed, which the investigators closed several months ago. He was charged with the appropriation of money by a partnership of homeowners.
- 01.11.2019 — the district election commission for the Brest-Border Election District No 4 passed a decision to cancel the registration of Vladimir Moroz as a candidate for deputy.
- 10.12.2019 — a protocol was drawn up under part 3 of article 23.34 of the CAO (fine - 45 b.u. and 40 b.u. respectively) on activist Andrei Slizh and Alexander Marachevsky for participating in an unauthorized picket of a candidate for deputy Polina Sharendo-Panasyuk during the parliamentary campaign. One of the points of her election program was the closure of the battery plant. Alexander and Andrei distributed informational materials at this picket

about the harmful effects of lead on the human body and the dangers of the battery plant near Brest.

- 05.01.2020 — the Brest city executive committee has banned the holding of three pickets “For an open trial against “IPower”. Local authorities banned pickets, citing their decision that mass events at the request of citizens can be held only in two places: in the Warrior-Internationalist park and at the Lokomotiv stadium.
- 09.01.2020 — 15 activists came to the appointment at the “IPower” office. They wanted to go there together to ask prepared questions, but the whole group was not allowed to come into the office on the grounds that the room was too small.
- 26.02.2020 — the Brest district executive committee has banned 15 rallies against the battery factory. They were scheduled from March 1 to 15 at the stadium of the youth sports school “Pribuzhie” (the village of Telmy, Brest region), which is determined as a permanent venue for mass events. According to Kislyak, the district executive committee in its response to the notifications of the rallies indicated that by the decision of the executive committee of November 4, 2019, the stadium was not included in the list of permanent venues for mass events.