

To:

United Nations  
Economic and Social Council  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
**Compliance Committee**  
of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information,  
Public Participation in Decision-making and  
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters  
Palais des Nations, Room 429-4  
CH-1211 GENEVA 10  
aarhus.compliance@unece.org  
52d Meeting of Compliance Committee  
8-11 March, 2016

From:

**Public Association “Ecohome”, Belarus**  
Minsk, Belarus  
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4 April 2019

*Re: Urgent – Follow-up to Decision VI/8c*

Dear Chair and members of the Compliance Committee!

By this letter we want to inform you about urgent situation with the persecution of an environmental activist in Brest, city of Belarus, which requires your immediate reaction.

We have previously informed the ACCC about the systematic pressure by authorities put on the activists from Brest city in Belarus, who criticize the construction of the battery factory in Brest city for its environmental risks.

Now we are bringing to your attention the recent and alarming facts of the criminal persecution of the local environmental activist, which are unprecedented in the situation when the country is in the follow-up process under the MOP-decision regarding persecution of activists:

- On April 9, the court of the Lieninski district of Brest will start the trial in the criminal case against a famous Brest blogger Siarhei Piatrukhin.

The charges under Part 2 of Art. 188 (slander) and Part 2 of Art. 189 (insult) of the Criminal Code were brought on April 1 by the Brest interdistrict department of the Investigative Committee.

They are linked to a series of videos filmed in March and April 2018 and uploaded to the video hosting service YouTube. The videos allege the involvement of a number of employees of the Lieninski district police department of Brest in the beating of Pavel Kaminski in the premises of the police station in 2016.

A number of the HR organizations in Belarus on April, 2, disseminated the statement, demanding to stop criminal prosecution of the activist. Full ext is available in attach.

- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, 2019, in Brest, city transport police stopped the car of a local activist 62-years old Moisei Mazko. They alleged to “find” in the car the plastic bag with explosives and cartridges. Mazko claimed that this was not his package and he did not know how the package got into his car. Mazko was arrested, and according to the official representative of investigative committee for the Brest region Dmitry Ivaniuk, a criminal case was initiated against him under the p. 2 of the article 295 of the Criminal Code (Illegal actions against firearms, ammunition and explosives)<sup>1</sup>.

The other activists from Brest believe that the package was planted, and the case was fabricated for political reasons, they believe that the authorities want to discredit Moisei Mazko and protests in Brest

We consider this situation as really dangerous and we urge you to consider immediate actions.

We consider that Belarus should immediately stop the prosecution of activists.

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1 <http://spring96.org/be/news/92521>