

The course of events related to persecution, pressure, and harassment of activists opposing the construction of the battery factory near Brest

Below you will find the general course of events related to the harassment of activists due to their activities.

Key facts and dates of the persecution and pressure on activists:

- 26.01.2018 – the Prosecutor’s office issued a notice about the inadmissibility of calls for mass events¹ shortly before the collection of signatures under an open appeal and the meeting of residents with journalists scheduled for 27.01.2018².
- 21.02.2018 – Aleksandr Kabanov was summoned to the Prosecutor’s office and received a notice “about the inadmissibility of violation of the provisions of the Law on Mass Events.”
- 22.02.2018 – Sergey Petrukhin received a notice from the Prosecutor’s office “about the inadmissibility of violation of the provisions of the Law on Mass Events.”
- 23.02.2018 – Sergey Petrukhin and Aleksandr Kabanov were preventively detained on the eve of the meeting scheduled for 25.02.2018.
- 28.02.2018 – Sergey Petrukhin and Aleksandr Kabanov were fined 50 base values³ each by the Leninsky District Court of Brest for violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events.
- 12.03.2018 – the Court of Pinsk District and Pinsk-city fined Sergey Petrukhin and Aleksandr Kabanov 40 base values each for illegal production and distribution of media products (part 2 of Article 22.9 of the Administrative Offences Code).
* On 11.04.2018, the Brest Regional Court reversed the decision of the Court of Pinsk District and Pinsk-city⁴.
- 25.03.2018 – after a protest at Lenin Square organised by the opponents of the construction of the battery factory, a 14-year-old boy was detained⁵.
- 29.03.2018 – Aleksandr Kabanov was fined 40 base values by the Beryoza Court for repeated participation in an unauthorized mass event in the course of the year.
- 29.03.2018 – the Leninsky District Court of Brest fined Sergey Petrukhin 45 base values for defiance to a police officer⁶.
- 01.05.2018 – activist of the pressure group against the factory construction Tatyana Fesikova was fired after the meeting of 29.04.2018⁷.
- 06.05.2018 – Sergey Petrukhin, Aleksandr Kabanov, Dmitry Androsyuk were detained during the collection of signatures under a collective appeal for the resignation of officials.
- 11.05.2018 – the Leninsky District Court of Brest found activists guilty of the violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events, namely for the collection of signatures under an appeal: Dmitry Androsyuk was fined 20 base values, Sergey Petrukhin and Aleksandr Kabanov – 50 base values each⁸.
- 12.05.2018 – the police inspected Sergey Petrukhin’s flat within the investigation of an application that Petrukhin had published defamatory information concerning a police officer on the Internet. During the inspection, the police seized all office equipment: a computer, a phone, a tablet⁹.

1 <http://virtualbrest.by/news52889.php>

2 <http://virtualbrest.by/news52913.php>

3 Base value is the value used for determining the amounts of fines, charges, etc. As of 2018, it amounted to 24.5 Belarusian rubles; from January 1, 2019 – 25,5 Belarusian rubles).

4 <https://news.tut.by/society/588547.html>

5 <https://news.tut.by/society/590114.html>

6 <https://news.tut.by/society/586912.html>, <https://www.b-g.by/news/blogera-kabanova-oshtrafovali-na-40-bazoviyh-zastrim-s-ploshhadi-gde-kormili-golubey/>

7 <https://www.b-g.by/society/aktivistku-iniciativnoy-gruppyi-protiv-stroitelstva-zavoda-akb-uvolili-posle-mitinga/>

8 <https://www.b-g.by/society/v-breste-sud-oshtrafoval-aktivistov-sobiravshih-podpisi-za-otstavku-chinovnikov/>

9 <https://spring96.org/be/news/89879>

- 16.05.2018 – inspections were conducted in the homes of activists in Brest and Baranovichi in connection with the action on the M1 motorway against the construction of the battery factory, during which office equipment was seized: computers, mobile phones, flash drives, etc¹⁰.
- 17.05.2018 – misinformation discrediting Brest human rights activist Roman Kislyak was spread on the Internet¹¹.
- 28.05.2018 – inspection was conducted in the house of an activist in Brest in connection with the action on the M1 motorway against the construction of the battery factory¹².
- 25.06.2018 – the Brest Region Economic Court upheld the claim of OOO IPower against Sergey Petrukhin and Aleksandr Kabanov for the protection of business reputation and obliged them to remove a video clip from their YouTube channel and recovered from them 490 rubles of court costs.
- 11.07.2018 – the Leninsky District Court of Brest fined Dmitry Bekalyuk and Oleg Yermolenko 20 base values each for the violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events, under part 1 of Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code. The infringement consisted in the collection of signatures in the street under a collective appeal on 24.06.2018¹³.
- 19.07.2018 – the Moskovsky District Court of Brest decided to recover from the Ecohome NGO, Demyan Lepesevich, Elena Makarevich and Dmitry Bekalyuk 315 rubles each to the company IPower as compensation for legal costs.
- 27.07.2018 – Sergey Petrukhin was arrested in the yard of his house¹⁴.
- 15.09.2018 – local activists Dmitry Bekalyuk and Demyan Lepesevich received threatening phone calls shortly after they had called a phone-in show with the chairman of the Brest Regional Executive Committee Anatoly Lis.
- 04.10.2018 – Konstantin Ostapuk and Sergey Petrukhin were fined under Article 23.34 (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events) at a rate of 14 and 45 base values respectively. According to the court, the picketing consisted in the fact that they “were at the square during the ‘pigeons feeding’ protest wearing t-shirts with slogans against the battery factory.”¹⁵ Konstantin Ostapuk was also fined 3 base values for a traffic violation – he ran onto the carriageway when trying to escape the police.
- 05.10.2018 – Konstantin Ostapuk was detained for 72 hours¹⁶.
- 08.10.2018 – Tatyana Fesikova and Andrey Ostapchuk were fined 10 base values each for unauthorised picketing¹⁷, “which consisted in them sticking stickers with anti-factory slogans on people’s outerwear.”
- 10.10.2018 – the Brest Prosecutor’s office called activists at the inquest about the circumstances related to the violation of the legislation on the procedural arrangements of holding mass events. 7 activists received notices from the Prosecutor’s office on the inadmissibility of participation in unauthorised protests.
- 10.10.2018 – the Leninsky District Court of Brest fined Yulia Zubik 5 base values under part 1 of Article 23.34 of Administrative Offences Code (participation in an unauthorised mass event on 07.10.2018), Konstantin Ostapuk was fined 3 base values for defiance to police officers after detention at the protest on 30.09.2018¹⁸.
- 14.10.2018 – 16 people were detained before, during and after the meeting, including Dmitry Bekalyuk, Sergey Petrukhin, Aleksandr Kabanov, Nikolay Statkevich, Vitaly Kozak, Vladimir Moroz, Grigory Pogartsev, Lyudmila Karchevskaya, Dmitry Androsyuk, Vladimir Kozlovsky¹⁹, as well as several minors and a human rights activist Roman Kislyak²⁰.

10 <https://spring96.org/be/news/89903>

11 <https://www.b-g.by/news/pravozashhitnik-roman-kislyak-pohozhe-myi-silno-prizhali-aypauer-i-gruppu-kompaniy-pak>

12 <https://spring96.org/be/news/90051>

13 <https://naviny.by/article/20180712/1531387838-v-breste-oshtrafovery-aktivisty-sobiravshie-podpisi-za-otstavku>

14 <https://euroradio.fm/ru/omon-s-avtomatami-zaderzhal-brestskogo-blogera-petrukhina-video>

15 <https://www.b-g.by/news/v-sude-v-breste-protivnika-zavoda-oshtrafovali-za-mayku-i-vruchili-novuyu-povestku-video>

16 <https://www.b-g.by/news/v-breste-vnov-zaderzhali-ranee-oshtrafovanogo-za-mayku-protiv-zavoda-akb-aktivista/>

17 <https://www.b-g.by/news/v-breste-proshli-sudyi-nad-zaderzhannyimi-nakanune-protivnikami-akkumulyatornogo-zavoda>

18 <https://www.svaboda.org/a/29535765.html>

19 <https://www.svaboda.org/a/29543069.html>, <http://spring96.org/ru/news/91103>

20 <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/belarus-judicial-harassment-against-roman-kislyak>

- 14.10.2018 – traffic police stopped the car of Dmitry Bekalyuk before the meeting at the square. Riot police came and detained Dmitry and his son. They were taken to the District Department of Internal Affairs. An administrative detention report was drawn up for a traffic violation, and a fine was imposed at a rate of 3 base values.
- 15.10.2018 – the Leninsky District Court of Brest found activists guilty of participation in an unauthorised mass event on 14.10.2018 under part 1 of Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code. Grigory Pogartsev was fined 10 base values, Andrey Slizh – 10 base values, Dmitry Androsyuk – 40 base values, Lyudmila Karchevskaya – 5 base values, Vitaly Kozak – 10 base values, Vladimir Kozlovsky – 10 base values, Vladimir Moroz – 10 base values, Nikolay Statkevich – 5 days of administrative arrest.
- 16.10.2018 – the Leninsky District Court of Brest imposed a fine for violation of Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (organisation of or participation in an unauthorised mass event) on Oleg Vyalov – 10 base values, Sergey Petrukhin – 5 days of administrative arrest, Aleksandr Kabanov – 5 days of administrative arrest.
- 19.10.2018 – activist, participant of the pressure group Demyan Lepesevich²¹ was detained at night at his flat.
- 19.10.2018 – several active participants of protest actions against the construction of the battery factory near Brest received the summons to the Leninsky District Department of Internal Affairs, or to district community police offices for 12 am on 21.10.2018 – exactly at the time of the weekly meetings of the residents at the square. The summons specified that they were invited “as the persons against whom the administrative procedure is initiated.”
- 22.10.2018 – the Leninsky District Court of Brest found several residents guilty of participation in an unauthorised mass event on 14.10.2018 under part 1 of Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code and fined Valery Fominsky 10 base values, Ales Oblyak – 10 base values, Andrey Sherenda – 15 base values.
- 26.10.2018 – the Leninsky District Court of Brest found Demyan Lepesevich guilty of participation in an unauthorised mass event on 14.10.2018 under part 1 of Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code and fined him 10 base values.
- 31.10.2018 – the Leninsky District Court of Brest fined Sergey Petrukhin 50 base values for repeated violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events in the course of one year.
- 11.11.2018 – while leaving Lenin Square, a resident in the costume of a life-sized fox puppet was detained²².
- 11.11.2018 – according to Konstantin Ostapuk (the person dressed as a fox), on the way to and inside the District Department of Internal Affairs he was intimidated and threatened by police officers and deputy head of the District Department of Internal Affairs Nikolay Samosyuk²³.
- 13.11.2018 – Sergey Petrukhin was detained in one of the community police offices in Brest.
- 23.11.2018 – the Leninsky District Court of Brest found Sergey Petrukhin guilty under Article 24.6 of the Administrative Offences Code (evasion of appearance at the agency handling an administrative or criminal case) and was fined 10 base values.
- 07.12.2018 – 5 activists were detained: Dmitry Androsyuk, Andrey Ostapchuk, Tatyana Fesikova, Yulia Zubik, Vladimir Moroz²⁴.
- 19.12.2018 – Sergey Petrukhin was prevented from leaving the country by the border guard service on the border with Lithuania; his right to leave Belarus is restricted by the Leninsky District Department of Internal Affairs of Brest²⁵.
- 30.12.2018 – Vitaly Kozak, a resident, was preventively detained. On this day, he had planned to congratulate people on the New Year at Lenin Square wearing a Santa Claus costume.
- 22.01.2019 – the Brest Regional Executive Committee refused to register the initiative group on holding a local referendum for banning the construction of the battery factory²⁶.

21 <https://www.b-g.by/news/v-breste-zaderzhan-protivnik-akkumulyatornogo-zavoda-demyan-lepesevich-obnovleno/>

22 <https://kyky.org/news/v-breste-na-mitinge-protiv-zavoda-zaderzhali-cheloveka-v-kostyume-lisa>

23 <https://belsat.eu/ru/news/zhitel-bresta-v-kostyume-lisa-rukovodstvo-militsii-pugalo-menya-chto-ya-mogu-okazatsya-v-muhavtse/>

24 <https://www.b-g.by/news/v-breste-zaderzhanie-protivnikov-zavoda-akb-obernulos-potasovkoy-s-miliciei-video/>

25 <https://euroradio.fm/ru/blogera-sergeya-petrukhina-snyali-s-avtobusa-na-granice-s-litvoy>

26 <https://news.tut.by/economics/623424.html>

- 30.01.2019 – the court found Yulia Nichiporuk guilty of the violation of the legislation on the procedural arrangements of holding mass events, which consisted in the fact that “she placed a leaflet and 4 stickers on a snowman,” and ordered to pay a fine of 1 base value²⁷.
- 01.02.2019 – Brest Inter-district Department of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus issued an indictment order against Brest blogger Sergey Petrukhin in a criminal case initiated against him under the articles “Libel” and “Insult.”²⁸
- 07.02.2019 – the Brest City Executive Committee denied the application of Brest residents to hold four meetings on the grounds that “other activities had been authorised at the same location previously.”²⁹ At the same time, the latest amendments to the Law on Mass Events provide authorising peaceful assemblies upon notification, if the event is held on an authorised location.
- 11.02.2019 – the Beryoza District Court fined Aleksandr Kabanov 20 base values under part 3 of article 24.10 of the Administrative Offences Code (non-compliance of the obligor with a court decision or any other judicial act compelling the obligor to perform certain acts or refrain from performing them within the time limit prescribed by statutory instruments or court or judicial custodian) for not complying with a court decision ordering to remove a video clip from YouTube.
- 14.02.2019 – the Brest City Executive Committee informed the activists of the public campaign against the construction of the battery factory about the “inadmissibility of holding meetings on February 16 and 17” in connection with “a previously scheduled event (a military-patriotic song contest).”

Altogether, for the period of protests in Brest residents and activists:³⁰

- were subjected to the imposition of fines at a total rate of 669 base values (16,411.5 Belarusian rubles);
- three people were administratively arrested for 5 days each (15 days in total);
- legal costs in the amount of 1,750 Belarusian rubles were recovered.

The table below provides a summary of the fines and legal costs imposed on activists:

full name	trial date	fine amount	alleged offence
Aleksandr Kabanov	28.02.2018	50 base values (1,225 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	29.03.2018	40 base values (980 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	11.05.2018	50 base values (1,225 Belarusian rubles)	part 3 of Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (repeated violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)

27 <https://news.tut.by/society/624507.html>

28 <http://spring96.org/ru/news/91973>

29 <http://spring96.org/ru/news/92014>

30 The information gathered from public sources and residents; therefore, some cases could not be included due to lack of information.

	25.06.2018	245 Belarusian rubles	court costs (economic court, the claim of OOO IPower)
	16.10.2018	5 days of administrative arrest	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	11.02.2019	20 base values (510 Belarusian rubles)	part 3 of article 24.10 of the Administrative Offences Code (noncompliance of the obligor with a court decision or any other judicial act compelling the obligor to perform certain acts or refrain from performing them within the time limit prescribed by statutory instruments or court or judicial custodian)
Sergey Petrukhin	28.02.2018	50 base values (1,225 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	29.03.2018	45 base values (1,102.5 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.4 of the Administrative Offences Code (disobedience to a legal enactment or demand of an official on duty)
	11.05.2018	50 base values (1,225 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	25.06.2018	245 Belarusian rubles	court costs (economic court, the claim of OOO IPower)
	04.10.2018	45 base values (1,102.5 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	16.10.2018	5 days of administrative arrest	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	31.10.2018	50 base values (1,225 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	23.11.2018	10 base values (245)	Article 24.6 of the Administrative

		Belarusian rubles)	Offences Code (evasion of appearance at the agency handling an administrative or criminal case)
Ecohome NGO D. A. Lepesevich, D. V. Bekalyuk, E. A. Makarevich	19.07.2018	1260 Belarusian rubles	claim costs in favour of OOO IPower
Andrey Sherendo	21.10.2018	15 base values (367.5 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Valery Fominsky	21.10.2018	10 base values (245 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Ales Oblyak	21.10.2018	10 base values (245 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Tatyana Fesikova	08.10.2018	10 base values (245 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Andrey Ostapchuk	08.10.2018	10 base values (245 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Dmitry Androsyuk	11.05.2018	20 base values (490 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	15.10.2018	40 base values (980 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Dmitry Bekalyuk	11.07.2018	20 base values (490 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	14.10.2018	3 base values (73.5	Article 18.14 of the

		Belarusian rubles)	Administrative Offences Code (failure to comply with the traffic regulation signals, violation of passenger carriage rules or other traffic regulations)
Oleg Yermolenko	11.07.2018	20 base values (490 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Konstantin Ostapuk	04.10.2018	3 base values (73.5 Belarusian rubles)	Article 18.14 of the Administrative Offences Code (failure to comply with the traffic regulation signals, violation of passenger carriage rules or other traffic regulations) for running onto the carriageway when trying to escape the police ³¹ .
	04.10.2018	14 base values (343 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
	10.10.2018	3 base values (73.5 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.4 of the Administrative Offences Code (disobedience to a legal enactment or demand of an official on duty)
Yulia Zubik	10.10.2018	5 base values (122.5 Belarusian rubles)	part 1 of Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Lyudmila Karchevskaya	15.10.2018	5 base values (122.5 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Vladimir Moroz	15.10.2018	10 base values (245 Belarusian rubles)	part 1 of Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Vladimir Kozlovsky	15.10.2018	10 base values (245 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Oleg Vyalov	16.10.2018	10 base values (245	Article 23.34 of the

		Belarusian rubles)	Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Andrey Slizh	15.10.2018	10 base values (245 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Vitaly Kozak	15.10.2018	10 base values (245 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Grigory Pogartsev	15.10.2018	10 base values (245 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Nikolay Statkevich	15.10.2018	5 days of administrative arrest	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Demyan Lepesevich	26.10.2018	10 base values (245 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)
Yulia Nichiporuk	30.01.2019	1 base value (25.5 Belarusian rubles)	Article 23.34 of the Administrative Offences Code (violation of the procedural arrangements of organising or holding mass events)