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Compliance Committee to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Additional information to the letter dated April 20, 2020

Dear Chairman and Committee members,

In addition to our letter to the Committee on [April 20, 2020](#), containing the information on new cases of persecution of Brest activists, in accordance with par. 7 of [Decision VI/8c](#), we inform you on the update of the situation with Dmitry Bekalyuk, whose consideration of the case was postponed until April 22, 2020.

Dmitry Bekalyuk was detained in the evening April 17 by four police officers in a store. According to Bekalyuk, they did not explain the reason for the detention and also denied his right to defence.

On April 22, 2020, the Leninsky district court of Brest sentenced Dmitry Bekalyuk to 15 days of arrest for participating on April 12, 2020, in a weekly meeting of locals who opposed the construction of a battery plant in Brest. About 150 people took part in the meeting¹.

The witness in court was an employee of the internal affairs bodies, who explained that he identified D. Bekalyuk “by face and body constitution”. He also noted that Dmitry on April 12 publicly “expressed dissatisfaction with the current authority and the construction of battery factory”².

The judge found Dmitry Bekalyuk guilty according to part 3 of art. 23.34 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Republic of Belarus — a repeated violation of the organization or conduct of public events³.

Executive director

Marina Dubina

¹<https://news.tut.by/society/680357.html>.

²<https://spring96.org/ru/news/96641>

³Actions committed under the par. 3 of art. 23.34 of the Code of Administrative Offenses involve a fine of 20 to 50 basic units (approximately 200 euros to 500 euros) or administrative arrest.