BELARUS: two-year summary report on the human rights situation

Group of Independent Experts on the Human Rights Situation in Belarus (GIE Belarus)

February 2026

INTRODUCTION

Mandate

Human Rights Council resolution 55/27 (2024) mandated the GIEB to *"investigate and establish the facts, circumstances and root causes of all alleged human rights violations and abuses committed in Belarus since 1 May 2020 […] and to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of such violations and abuses and, where possible, to identify those responsible, in view of relevant judicial and other proceedings, including criminal proceedings in courts and tribunals that have competent jurisdiction"*.

The GIEB is composed of Karinna Moskalenko (chair), Susan Bazilli and Monika Platek who independently investigate human rights violations and crimes committed in Belarus since 1 May 2020, with the support of a team of specialized United Nations personnel.

Activities

From May 2024 to March 2026, GIEB:

- Conducted **+400** **interviews** with Belarusian victims, witnesses, lawyers and human rights defenders
- Undertook **18** investigative and diplomatic **missions**
- Analyzed and archived **+4500** **documentary information**, including videos, photos, digital materials, official public statements, medical records and court documents
- Shared material with international and national judicial accountability mechanisms with competent jurisdiction.

RELEVANT FINDINGS[1]

+500,000 Belarusians **forced into exile** since 2020[2]

+1,131 people **still detained on political grounds**

Since 1 May 2020, the **State of Belarus systematically employs violence and punishments that amount to gross human rights violations** to create a climate of fear that pre-empts any challenge to the current system of government.

This **orchestrated campaign of violence and mistreatment is part of a discriminatory policy designed to systematically persecute and silence** any person and shut down any civic or political organization that maintains a position that differs from that of the Government or that is perceived as such.

Main violations

Main human rights violations committed against Belarusians since 1 May 2020:

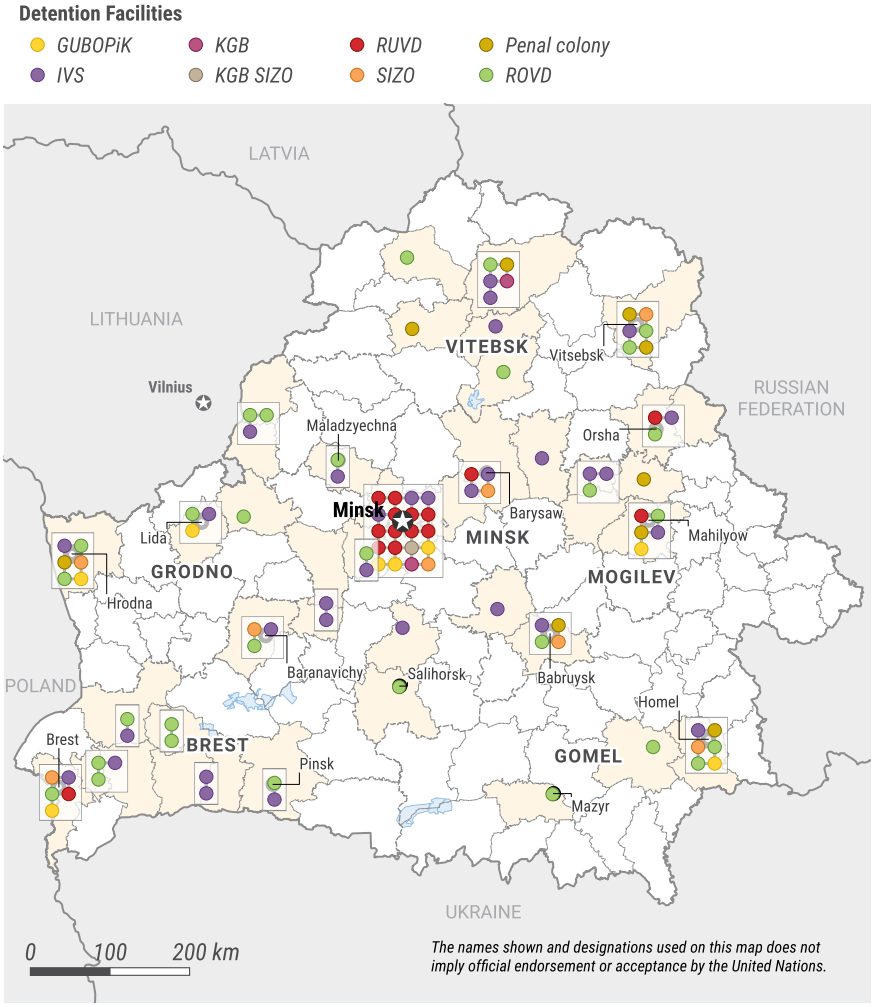
- **Arbitrary deprivation of the right to life and to liberty**
- **Torture and ill-treatment, including sexual and gender-based violence**
- **Denial of the rights to due process and to a fair trial**
- **Violations of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association and to equal protection of the law**
- **Transnational repression against Belarusians in exile**
- **Forcible expulsion of Belarusian citizens to a third country and arbitrary confiscation of their identity documents**
- **Arbitrary denial of the right to enter one's own country**

Crimes against humanity

The GIEB has reasonable grounds to believe that some of the documented **violations constitute international crimes**, committed knowingly as part of a widespread and systematic attack against civilians in Belarus.

It found that the **crimes against humanity of political persecution and imprisonment** have been committed since 1 May 2020.

Map of detention facilities and premises where human rights violations were committed from 20 May 2020 to 31 December 2025



[1] *Based on reports A/HRC/58/68; A/HRC/60/CRP.1; A/HRC/61/57*

[2] *https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2025-0249_EN.html*

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