

THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE
FOR INVESTIGATION OF
TORTURE IN BELARUS

“You will die here”

Testimonies of the Prisoners of Akrestina.

*Public investigation of cases of mass torture
in the Center for isolation of offenders in the city of Minsk
on August 9–14, 2020*



Contents

Introduction	4
Summary	5
August 9, 2020	7
End of voting in the presidential election. Detentions in Minsk	7
19:00 – 24:00	7
Yard of the CIP, “corridor” of the security forces	7
Walking yards in CIP	9
Cells, CIP corridors	9
August 10, 2020	11
00:00 – 07:00	11
The yard of CIP	11
Walking yards of CIP	12
Cells, CIP corridors	13
07:00 – 24:00	15
Yard of the CIP	15
Walking yards of CIP	16
Cells, CIP corridors	17
August 11, 2020	20
00:00 – 07:00	20
Yard of the CIP	20
Walking yards of the CIP	21
Cells, CIP corridors	21
07:00 – 24:00	23
Yard of the CIP	23
Walking yards of the CIP	23
Cells, CIP corridors	24
August 12, 2020	26
00:00 – 07:00	26
Yard of the CIP	26
Walking yards of the CIP	27
CIP corridor, cells	27
07:00 – 24:00	28
Yard of the CIP	28

Walking yards of the CIP	29
Cells, CIP corridors	29
August 13, 2020	32
00:00 – 07:00	32
Yard of the CIP	32
Walking yards of the CIP	33
Cells, CIP corridors	33
07:00 – 24:00	35
Yard of the CIP	35
Walking yards of the CIP	35
Cells, CIP corridors	36
August 14, 2020	37
00:00 – 07:00	37
07:00 – 24:00	37
Beatings, injuries in victims of violence	38
Photos from cases of victims interviewed by the International Committee to Investigate Torture in Belarus	41
Photo from the report “Belarus: a coordinated policy of torture. Forensic medical examination of 50 cases of torture”	43
Persons Responsible for Torturing Detainees in the Offenders Isolation Center	46
Legal qualification of actions of law enforcement officers of Belarus	53

Introduction

After the fraud of the presidential elections on August 9, 2020, mass peaceful protests began in Belarus. The response of the regime was the use of weapons, stun grenades, and tear gas by the security forces. Security forces massively detained and beat protesters. Unjustified brutality against peaceful demonstrators continued after the arrests.

Among the detainees, there were not only direct participants in the protests. The security forces also grabbed minors, elderly people, people with disabilities, as well as bystanders.

The detained in the city were taken to various departments of internal affairs. In Minsk, the main place of detention of detainees was the Center for Isolation of Offenders of the Main Internal Affairs Directorate of the Minsk City Executive Committee, located at 1st lane Akrestina, 36¹ (hereinafter referred to as the CIP).

For five days (August 9–14, 2020), more than three thousand detainees passed through the detention center, designed to hold 110 people.

All detainees were subjected to humiliating procedures during placement in the detention center, severe beatings, and were kept in inhuman conditions in overcrowded cells without food and water for two or more days. People were beaten at any attempt to find out their status, to demand their rights and medical assistance. CIP officers and security forces from the OMON took part in the beatings of the detained people (watch the video with testimonies of the detainees²).

On August 13, 2020, Belarusian human rights activists appealed to the Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Yury Karaev with a demand to stop torture in the detention center and other places of detention and to investigate cases of torture³.

The deputy head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus, Alexander Barsukov, at first stated that *"there were no cases of torture"*⁴. The next morning, he clarified that *"no one was beaten in the cells"*⁵.

Simultaneously with such statements, the detainees continued to be beaten, as evidenced by numerous pieces of evidence, including in the form of audio recordings.

On the night of August 12-13, relatives of detainees in the Akrestina detention center recorded the sounds of incessant beatings, which were clearly audible on the street. On the recordings, the voices of people can be heard screaming loudly in pain and begging for mercy⁶.

On August 14, detainees began to be released en masse. Some were taken out in ambulances. Those who were released showed their wounds and injuries from torture.

1. <https://minsk.mvd.gov.by/ru/page/centr-izolyacii-pravonarushitelej>

The common name "Akrestina" has been associated in Belarus for many years with illegal detentions of citizens for political reasons. This place has become a symbol of the torture of civilians who disagree with electoral fraud, participants in the protests in 2020-2022.

2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tikikCluPrk>

3. <https://www.legin.by/posts/255>

4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Du6ZvyHmTGE>

5. <https://t.me/radiosvaboda/5873>

6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ml6-w1mLgBM&t=4s>

Summary



CIP on Akrestina. Photo by Euroradio

This report is based on the information from the testimonies of 101 victims (1095 pages of documents) who were held at the CIP between 9 and 14 August 2020 in the 1st lane of Akrestina, 36 in Minsk. For the purposes of publication, many of the witnesses were interviewed additionally. Also, the experts of the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus carefully studied the medical and other documents provided by the interviewees.

This publication describes, in chronological order, the stay of the detainees in the CIP, as well as the conditions in which they were held. The focus is on the main locations: the courtyard of the CIP, where people were unloaded from paddy wagons; walking yards, where they were kept for 2-3 hours or more until they were distributed to cells (some stayed there for several days); cells and corridors of the CIP. In any place of the detention center, people faced severe beatings, psychological pressure, and insults from the staff of the detention center (including medical workers), as well as security forces from other units of the country's law enforcement system.

The detainees testify to the incredible overcrowding of the cells in which they were kept, unsanitary conditions, and the absence of elementary toilet and hygiene items, drinking water, and food for several days, despite the established norms and rules of detention⁷.

By deliberately keeping people in overcrowded cells at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the CIP staff endangered their health and lives. The sick and those in need of constant medication, as well as the injured and wounded, did not receive emergency medical care, which resulted in serious consequences for the health of many of them. Emergency medical assistance to detainees was called in exceptional cases.

The detention conditions in the detention center are regarded by the experts of the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus as cruel, and in some cases, these conditions reached the level of torture.

Massive beatings and psychological and physical abuse by law enforcement officers, including detention center employees, accompanied the detainees throughout their stay in the isolation ward.

The speedy trials that took place in the building of the CIP did not meet the principles of a fair trial.

7. <https://minsk.mvd.gov.by/ru/news/4411>

People were not given the opportunity to get acquainted with the protocols of detentions, in many cases the information in them was incorrect and fictitious. They refused to provide a lawyer, sometimes they beat people for this demand.

Under such circumstances, the actions of the security forces such as OMON and employees of the CIP of the Main Internal Affairs Directorate of the Minsk City Executive Committee in relation to the detained people, reflected in this report, are criminal both under domestic and international law.

An analysis of the interviews of the victims and additional interviews to identify the security officers made it possible to identify some officials of the CIP who took part in the torture and ill-treatment of detainees.

Due to the ongoing repression of the victims, the report does not give their real names and surnames and avoids descriptions that can be used to identify people. Quotes from interviews with victims in the document are in italics.

This publication is another documentary evidence of crimes against humanity committed by the regime after the presidential elections in the Republic of Belarus in August 2020.

It should be noted that the cruel conditions of detention in the detention center and the attitude towards detainees, which can be compared with torture, have practically not changed from August 2020 to the present⁸. This is confirmed by numerous testimonies of victims who served administrative arrests in this institution in 2021–2023.

One of the egregious examples of torture against detainees is the fact of abuse of human rights activist Nastya Loiko, who stated in court that on November 11, 2022, one of the CIP employees took her to the patio and left her without outerwear for eight hours. As a result of this, Nasta became very ill⁹.

8. February 2023

9. <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/26113.html>

August 9, 2020

End of voting in the presidential election. Detentions in Minsk

Throughout the voting day on August 9, targeted detentions took place in Minsk — many were taken directly from the polling stations. They were mostly independent observers and local activists. In the city, people were detained by OMON, SOBR, police and other units of the security forces. The detainees were taken to the city's police departments, where protocols were falsified, after which they were taken to the detention center in Akrestina and other places of detention. However, some of the detainees, without being taken to the police department, were immediately taken to the detention center and other places of detention.

On that day, detainees began to arrive at the CIP between 18:00 and 20:00. After 22:00 hours, the number of people delivered increased rapidly. Most of them were brought in paddy wagons and small city buses.

19:00 — 24:00

Yard of the CIP, “corridor” of the security forces

Scheme of the courtyard of the CIP on Akrestina. Drawing of one of the detainees.

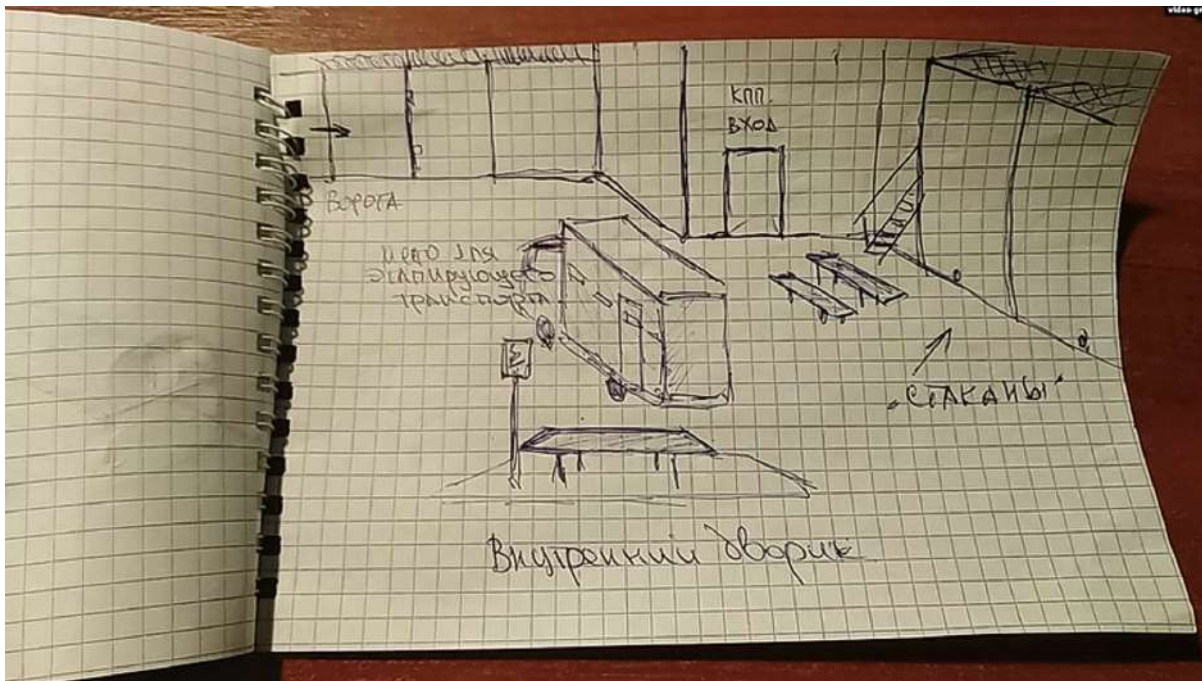


Photo from the site: <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/belarus-minsk-okrestina/30881162.html>

Everyone who was brought to the Akrestina CIP was unloaded from the transport in the yard. Some of the detainees were taken to the building of the isolation center by the security forces. Those who remained in the yard were placed along the fence facing the wall with their heads low.

The victim, who was taken from the police department to Akrestina at about 21:00, described what he saw in the yard in the first minutes after arrival:

"I saw that people were kneeling on the street along the fence, I heard their screams, and it was clear from the sound that they were being beaten with truncheons. Next, I

saw the girls facing the wall, we were also told to lower our heads, that is, not to look. We were also placed facing the wall."

After leaving the paddy wagon, the detainees were driven through the "corridor" made by the security forces officers. The victims describe that they had to run with their hands tied, their heads bowed, in a half-crouch past people in black uniforms standing on both sides, who **mercilessly beat them with truncheons**.

"When I turned around, there was a viewing hole [in the paddy wagon] at my eye level, I could see the exit. I saw the so-called 'corridor' when the detainees were taken out, they were all beaten."

The detainees ran out of the paddy wagons, for some time they ran through the "corridor" and stood near the building, facing the wall, their hands behind. To all questions and requests (about water, medical care, a lawyer), they were answered with blows with truncheons and berets.

Tables were placed in front of the entrance to the building, on which an inspection with an inventory of personal belongings was to be carried out. While people were moving along the wall, they were instructed to take off their watches, bracelets, rings, chains, phones, take out laces from sneakers, belts. The security forces forbade them to look anywhere — in their faces, to the side, to turn their heads. If someone made eye contact with the security officer, he was immediately beaten with truncheons.

Some detainees were "lucky" more — they were not driven through the "corridor" with truncheons. At 23:30 a group of people was placed along the wall on the other side of the fence and they began to rewrite the data. One guy tried to explain that he was a foreign citizen. Employees answered him: "Stop, damn it, I told you. I'll show you now, damn it! Shut up! Stop, damn it! turn around! Bitch!" Later, foreign citizens (there were several of them) were separated from the rest.

Then the security officers began to act more harshly. Almost all those arriving were mercilessly beaten as soon as they left the paddy wagons.

"We were ordered to kneel on the concrete floor with our hands raised and pressed against the wall. My hands were still clasped behind me. So we stood for an hour or an hour and a half, waiting for other paddy wagons with detainees to arrive. When they arrived, we were told to crawl on our knees to the left along the perimeter. We crawled on glass, on stones, the whole process was accompanied by blows of truncheons. It's been a long time. My knees and legs in general were stiff and it was extremely difficult to move. All of our legs were covered in blood. When someone crawled badly, he received blows with truncheons on the back. Sometimes they beat just passing by, for no reason."

In the bright spotlights, people rushed out of the buses and crouched as they ran towards the wall.

"It was twenty or thirty, maybe forty meters. There was a queue from the wall to the paddy wagon, and while we were running, we were beaten with truncheons.... there were dogs there, shepherds, it seems, because they had fluffy black-brown mouths and they clattered right next to their faces.... we stood near the wall, and we had to kneel, hands up, head down."

There were also people standing along the second wall-fence, about 50 people. The arrivals noted that they had been there for quite a long time: some were standing, some were lying, a man was lying in the middle of the lawn covered in blood, and an ambulance was standing next to him.

Some arrivals were processed quickly (passport details were copied), personal belongings were taken away and they were immediately escorted to cells. There were many people, so they were placed literally on all suitable premises. Some victims said that upon arrival they were herded into the basement, where there were from 70 to 100 people.

Walking yards in CIP

The detainees were placed in the yards for walks of administratively arrested persons. According to their descriptions, "the yard for walking is a concrete room four by five meters, covered with bars on top. The lattice cell is about one pack of cigarettes, a pack of cigarettes is ten centimeters.



Walking courtyard CIP.

Photo from <https://www.the-village.me/village/city/cityguide/284613-jail-prison>

There were several walking yards. There were a lot of people in them. At first, 20 people were placed there, but as new detainees arrived, up to 70. People stood literally right next to each other, as if in a crowded transport. It was impossible to sit or lie down. They took 3 persons each time to use the WC.

"In the walking yards we were scattered by 50–60 people. I was transferred to the second walking 'well'. There I saw a person with such wounds from bullets, like from cupping which was done in childhood: the marks are huge, and they bleed, it was clear that they were fresh, because there was such wateriness.

"A man walks up there, says: 'I'll throw a grenade here for you now and you all are dead.' I understand that at this moment, seventy people, if a grenade hits here, then that's the end..."

Most of the victims perceived the threats coming in their direction as real. The situation was very psychologically tense and nervous, the detainees noted that at that moment the security forces were ready for any extreme actions.

Cells, CIP corridors

The detainees stood in the corridor waiting for the inspection: the women were ordered to stand "with their hands to the wall", and the men were put on a stretch — their legs were as wide as possible wider than their shoulders. Then several people were taken for inspection. During this procedure, it was necessary to strip naked and sit down several times. Even though it was a separate room, no privacy was provided.

Several victims tell about the episode near the room for the body search. As it turned out during the inspection, one of the girls was a transgender.

"They started mocking her/him, saying that he was a faggot. Judging by the actions of the employee, I think that he met with this for the first time. He didn't know what to

do, how to deal with this person: (put like a man on a stretch) or like a woman (palms against the wall). He asked someone, and that person said that 'this is a fag, put him as a man.' They put him on a stretch in a rigid form and beat him with a truncheon."

After the inspection, people were assigned to cells. But, before reaching the cell, it was necessary to quickly run through the corridor, along the perimeter of which the security forces stood and beat the running people.

The first detainees were placed in cells on the first, second, third and fourth floors around 22:00–23:00.

More and more people were gradually added to the cells. Victims talk about terrible overcrowding: 22 people in a four-bed cell; 30 people in a six-seater; 42 people in a cell designed for eight people; 24 people in a double.

"I was in a cell for four people, there were two bunk beds. At first, there were 12 of us there, but all the time the transport with the detainees arrived... And every 20 minutes new people were added."

"Toilets were often clogged or didn't work at all. The water was only cold, but it was also of very poor quality – we tried to filter it somehow."

The arrival of new people continued all night long, screams, sounds of beatings, insults and threats were constantly heard in the cells. The detainees could not sleep, the lights were constantly on in the cells.

"You're sitting there and all you hear is beating, moaning, screaming, until the person just shuts up and stops screaming." Some cells were taken out for searches several times during the night: "When we were taken out for searches, we were standing facing the wall. They yelled, 'Face the wall! Eyes on the floor! If someone turns around, he will be beaten' Constantly with this negative, with a wild cry. That is, we were treated like dogs."

August 10, 2020

According to the stories of the victims, August 10 and 11, 2020 were the cruelest in the CIP. Significantly more people were brought there than the day before. Those sitting in the cells could hear how the newly brought detainees were brutally beaten. The security forces were outraged throughout the day.

"Every night I heard the torture that took place in the yard of the CIP. People moaned and screamed. They were forced to shout: 'We love OMON.' They were forced to sing the national anthem of Belarus. It was very scary to listen to it."

"One female employee asked: 'Put your truncheons inside these boys.' It was a targeted attack on humans. Everyone was as aggressive as possible: 'How much do they pay you?', 'Animal!', 'We will kill you all here now!' There was a feeling that the employees themselves were intoxicated."

00:00 — 07:00

The yard of CIP

The detainees, having been unloaded from paddy wagons, were driven through the "corridors" of the riot police in the courtyard of the CIP. There were eight to ten security officials on each side — in a checkerboard pattern. People ran between them, and they beat them with truncheons. Then everyone was placed facing the wall, ordered to lower their heads, put their hands on the wall and kneel.

If they did not like the way a person stood, they would beat him with a truncheon without warning. Then people were brought inside the building, where they had to remove belts, laces, hand over personal belongings.

Among the detainees there were many bleeding people, wounded by stun grenades and rubber bullets, some were beaten so that all their bodies were blue. Many people stood half-naked, wearing only shorts. In these positions they spent two or three hours.

Many detainees were brought to the CIP around 03:30. They were also placed in a long line along the fence in the yard. The victims were kneeling on the ground until dawn, their knees were bloodied in addition to the injuries received during the arrest. They were not allowed to drink, they were not taken to the toilet. From the first minutes of detention, people were made to understand that they had no rights. One of the detainees had a white ribbon on his hand and, having paid attention to it, the security officer said to put him on a separate list, since this ribbon should be "cut off with his skin".

"Employees shouted, called names, humiliated: 'Scum!', 'You should have stayed at home!', 'Do you want changes?', 'Animals!'. At first, we stood with hands up on our knees, then they were told to put our hands behind our backs and our heads as low as possible to the ground. It's hard to be in that position."

Those who moved were beaten with truncheons. By the morning, there were already about 100 people standing at the wall. It was hard and painful for injured people to kneel on paving slabs and the ground for 30–40 minutes. Interviewees talk about a large number of bloodied people around them. An elderly man was shaking due to high blood pressure, possibly from stress. One security officer allowed him to stand up, but another came up and hit him on the legs with a truncheon. The man fell.

"The psychological atmosphere that night was extremely tense. The security officers in the yard of the CIP were literally going wild with each passing hour. Any of their actions, even formal ones — a census of personal data, an inventory of things — were accompanied by incredible rudeness and cruelty towards the detainees."

"People were screaming very loudly... I understood that you shouldn't scream, because for them it was a signal that you were alive and they could beat you. People who were brought in and were beaten so badly that they simply could not remain silent."

The actions of the security forces were supported and carried out, in all likelihood, by order of the top leadership. The victims said that that night some authorities came to the yard of the CIP and watched what was happening.

"It was about 4-5 people in their 50s... and one of them said: 'If I had a machine gun, I would have shot you all, bitches.' Now that was scary. There was also a man in military uniform walking around, he had a mask and a rifle. It was clear that it was a rather serious weapon and that any disobedience could be regarded as an attack..."

The detainees were taken around the yard of the institution like cattle, everything had to be done quickly, because there was a queue of paddy wagons at the entrance.

"People came beaten, without pants, without shoes, with dissected faces and heads, with broken teeth, swollen faces. Their backs and legs were all blue. The security forces did not respond to people's requests for help. There were just shouts with foul language: 'Bitches, shut your mouth!' There was no respect, no humanity."

The victims talk about a man who physically couldn't bend his back and was constantly beaten for it. This procedure of "accepting" the detainees continued at Akrestina all night.

Walking yards of CIP

"A walking yard has four concrete walls, a steel door with a peephole, a 'feeding trough' for giving food, the ceiling is a sky in a box, a lattice."

The victims were put on their knees on the concrete floor, their hands behind their backs, they were given plastic bags and ordered to undress. Those who did not do it fast enough or not in the way that the security forces demanded were mercilessly beaten with truncheons.

"One of the detainees tried to get up to take off his pants, but he was hit with a truncheon and forced to undress on his knees."

As the victims describe, many people gathered in the walking yards. According to their estimates, there could be from seventy-five to one hundred people in twenty square meters.

"One guy didn't have shoes, he stood for a long time, and then he asked other guys to help him. Someone gave him socks, someone — insoles, so that he put them under his socks."

Many respondents note that they really needed water in the walking yards. However, in the first hours of their stay, they did not give water at all, later they gave very little, literally one and a half to two liters in plastic bottles for everyone, that is, for 75–100 people.

The victims needed urgent medical attention due to injuries of varying severity. However, no medical assistance was provided.

The detainees said that the security forces in the yards constantly escalated the psychological situation. They accompanied any of their actions not only with beatings, but also with rude cries, insults and humiliation.

"And also 'an hour of political information' was held — 'Scum, no more 'Plosca' (place for gatherings to show people's attitude to the authorities), you are all recorded now! If

you come here again, we will kill you, forget about this 'Plosca!' At the same time, they were beating us with truncheons. I have hematomas mainly on the buttocks."

Cells, CIP corridors

"It was impossible to sleep, because all night there were hellish screams of people, the sounds of truncheons, pleas for mercy. We heard how MAZs arrived. With loud cries: 'Come on, damn it, get out faster, damn it, run, run, come on.' The cell was on the second floor and its windows overlooked the courtyard, you could hear everything."

After inspection and registration, the detainees were placed in cells. Due to a large number of people, all cells were overcrowded. The cruel conditions of detention in them added to the sufferings of the beaten and injured people.

People came with multiple wounds of various origins, injured by rubber bullets, with broken arms and legs. The detainees arrived all night.

There were many girls among the detainees. They were taken to the third floor.

"We heard that they got girls, the security forces did not beat them. But sometimes an employee appeared (they called her Kristina), and she beat the girls, shouted 'you put your asses the wrong way' (she told those who didn't bend properly). She also beat them with a truncheon."

Foreigners were taken to the fourth floor. According to the respondents, if the security forces found out that the detainees were from Russia or Ukraine, they were severely beaten.

"I heard that some guys said they were from Ukraine. As soon as they heard this, the phrases were the same: 'Why did you come here?! You ruined your country, and now you came here to ruin ours! Did you want Maidan? Kiss, creature, the Belarusian land!'"

One of the respondents was in a four-bed cell, where there were 28–30 people. It was cool in the cell at night, but hot and stuffy during the day. There was not enough oxygen, and this made many dizzy. The only source of air was a slightly ajar window. People stood in line and changed places to get a little breath.

"When the man who was in my cell became ill, we pressed the button to call an officer. The employee asked: 'What do you want?'. We said that one man was losing consciousness and he felt bad. Our cell was opened and this man was taken out. The woman doctor who examined him said that if he loses consciousness, then let him fall. He could hardly stand on his feet and was held by an employee so that he would not fall to the floor. Under the insults of the doctor and laughter in our direction, the man was returned to us without helping him. He had a weak pulse."

Lights were constantly on in the cells. It was impossible to sleep because of the constant screams and moans of people. In addition to this, the security forces banged on the door with a truncheon and shouted at people not to go to bed. They were constantly intimidated that they would be "taken out into the yard" if they violated their demands.

Almost all the respondents note that the cells were overcrowded by 5–7 times these days (there were 13 people in a three-bed cell, and 20–25 in a five-bed cell). One of the detainees spoke about his stay in a six-bed cell, in which there were 50 people.

Due to the overcrowding of the cells, the conditions there were unbearable. From furniture — a couple of bedside tables, metal beds without mattresses, pillows and bed linen. A faucet protruded from the wall, from which people could drink.

At the same time, even taking into account the space on the floor, only 20–25 people could lie down. The rest could only sit. People tried to monitor the condition of those around them — if someone felt bad, then they made rotations, let this person lie down. In the complete absence of mattresses, everyone lay either on the floor on their clothes or on metal beds.

"Someone was standing, someone was lying under the bed, there were three people on one bed, some were sleeping as best they could. We spent two days like this."

Since there was not enough air in the cells, there was very high humidity. The detainees asked many times to open the "feeding trough", but the security forces did not respond to requests. Weakened people fainted.

"One person got sick. They took him away on the second day. He had something with his heart, he lost consciousness, because it was stuffy. But they didn't take him to the hospital, but handcuffed him in the corridor."

"You can breathe, but at some point, you are already in this state, you almost lose consciousness, because there is little oxygen, the windows did not open because of this lattice. The gap is about 5 cm, air came through it, but was really small enough, so we were suffocating."

Many detainees talk about the inhumane attitude of the security forces in the detention center towards the wounded and sick people. Medical assistance was not provided. Only in exceptional cases, after persistent requests, under the threat of apparent death, people were taken from the cells.

"One had a fragment from a grenade sticking out in his leg, but they didn't provide him with any help, they answered a request for help: 'Put this fragment in your ass.'"

"One man asked for a doctor all the time because he was severely beaten, his back was blue, he said: 'I need a doctor because I can't walk.' He couldn't walk because his ribs were broken. They didn't provide a doctor."

"Everyone had bruises, injuries but no one asked for help, because no one wanted to get an extra hit with a truncheon. One person was vomiting, he asked for a doctor, but he never came to see him."

"After the inspection, my head ached a lot, my ribs hurt on the right side. I asked to be seen by a doctor. They asked me what the problem was, and they answered that I had to be taken for an x-ray, but no one would do this, you are a big boy and should be patient... I had hallucinations, everything swam in my eyes"

There were 19 women in one of the four-bed cells. One of them was severely beaten for "extra" questions to the security forces and threatened that she would "rot in the cell". The women and girls in the cell were very frightened by what was happening.

"The riot policeman hit the woman's head against the wall, and the blonde woman ordered to put her fingers in the lock, and put them behind her head. At this time, with blows from her ankle boots, she continued to tear her inguinal ligaments, began to twist her right arm, sat her on her knees, pressed the woman's head to the floor with her foot and started shouting: 'Speak, bitch, your data!'"

All this time the women were not fed, they drank water from the tap, the "toilet" stank terribly.

The women asked to open the "feeder" because there was not enough air in the cell, but in response they heard only refusals. The girls describe that they were in a semi-conscious state, their thoughts were confused, they wanted to sleep all the time. They fell asleep, dozed for 15–20 minutes and woke up abruptly¹⁰.

10. The reaction of the body to a lack of oxygen, active inhalation and awakening, when a person is on the verge of losing consciousness due to a lack of oxygen in the cells.

One girl had a panic attack, she continuously vomited, she lost consciousness. The other girl had epilepsy. Another woman was sick with type 2 diabetes, and for three days had been asking to bring her pills from her bag, but to no avail. Many of the girls developed a severe cough from hypothermia as a result of standing and sleeping on the concrete floor. Women repeatedly asked to provide medical assistance to those in need, but in response they heard only refusals.

"At the same time, behind the wall, we heard how they continued to beat men — they wheezed, screamed, cried. One of the men was beaten to such a state that he urinated with blood. Employees yelled at him to wipe the bloody urine off the floor and clean up after himself. The man was crying and saying that he had nothing to wipe with because he was naked... The security forces continued to beat him and shouted at him to wipe everything with his body."

Toward morning, the screams and sounds of beatings began to subside. Those of the detainees who were in the cells even managed to fall asleep.

At about 06:00, the detainees in the cells on the second floor began to be awakened — the CIP officers in the corridor shouted: *"Get up, animals!"*.

Early in the morning on the second floor, the procedure for registration of protocols began. Each cell in turn was taken out into the corridor and placed along the wall. More than thirty people stood in the narrow corridor at the same time. You had to stand with your legs wide apart and your head bowed low, holding your hands behind your back.

"You go out — feet wide, hands on the wall, head down, if one of those who took you out doesn't like it, they can come up with a truncheon and beat you, saying 'legs wider, scum!'. One of the detainees had streaked hair, because of this, one of the employees hit his head against the wall with the words 'What are you, a woman?'"

The detainees were called in turn to sign protocols. If someone tried to study the document or point out errors in it, they began to insult, threaten, and could also beat him.

"To this [error in the protocol], he answered me with a shout — 'sign', to which I replied that I needed to read. They answered me: 'Fuck you, face the wall and stand still.' I, without signing anything, went to my place against the wall. After the last person signed with the hope that he would be allowed to go home, the cruelty began."

After signing the protocols, all the detainees were sent back to their cells, accompanied by blows of truncheons.

07:00 — 24:00

Yard of the CIP

"Closer to 8 a.m. we could hear people running, screams began, the sounds of truncheon blows, swearing. People run in and they shout: 'On your knees, lean your head against the wall!' They break them... They were beaten much harder than us, the aggression was very strong."

Those delivered to the CIP were unloaded from paddy wagons and taken through the "corridor". They were beaten with truncheons by about 20 law enforcers. The detainees note that they saw the blue uniform of traffic policemen, riot policemen in black uniforms. It was difficult to consider anything, they shouted *"Head to the floor!"* and struck on the back, on the back of the legs, it was impossible to get up. Those who raised their heads a little higher were beaten more. There was a crowd of employees of the isolation ward in the yard, they were in ordinary blue or gray T-shirts and black trousers, wearing masks.

"We just ran after each other. On both sides there were people with truncheons who beat us with these truncheons. Someone more, someone less. Someone managed to run, someone got more.

"Employees constantly shouted: 'Face to the floor!', 'Run, damn it!'. Each order 'Faster!' was accompanied by a blow to the legs."

The hands of the detainees were wrung, shouts and insults were constantly heard in their direction. Men leaving the paddy wagon were instantly kicked in the stomach, after which the man no longer straightened up and ran in this position.

One of the detainees says that the security forces deliberately beat the men in the groin, in the kidneys.

"They widened my legs in different directions almost to the split, and twice he hit me between my legs. When I asked why, he said: 'You should not give birth to such people as you again...'"

At the end of the "corridor" people were knocked down and forced to kneel at the fence.

"With the cries 'count the ants, face to the ground, hands behind your back, kneel down', they begin to check the phones. As a result, they begin to check personal belongings, starting with briefcases, bags, and so on. The guy had a bandage and hydrogen peroxide. For this, he got a couple of blows, well, because 'Why do you need this with you in peacetime?'"

During the inspection of personal belongings, the security forces found fault with every little thing: a T-shirt with an unusual pattern, holding hands the wrong way, smiling at the wrong time. The answer was — blows to the head, legs and arms, insults, threats.

"As a result, we stood like that for probably another 40 minutes. We run a little further, get up and understand that our legs do not work, they do not obey. One guy twisted his leg, tried to jump somehow, but it didn't really work out. And there was something like a 'corridor' [beating security officials], but much less often, there was already a person for every two meters and either they gave a kick, or a punch, or something else, we ran a little further again. A threat from the security forces: 'Maybe we should rape someone indicatively with a truncheon?' But, fortunately, it all remained at the threat level, nothing further followed.

Walking yards of CIP

"... we were taken to a walking yard measuring about four by four and a half meters. And it quickly filled up with people. There were sixty-seven of us in this courtyard. At some point, we asked to take out the most beaten and hand them over to doctors and to leave the rest in this yard. I know that there were guys with asthma in the next yard, you could hear that people were having an asthma attack."

Analyzing the stories of the victims, we can conclude that there were from 73 to 84 people accumulated in each of the walking yards during this period. People spent about a day there (some from 26 to 33 hours).

The detainees tried to sleep somehow. They sat against the wall or rested their backs on each other. There was not enough space, if 10 people sat down, then the rest of the people could only stand, there was no opportunity to move, and people's legs were numb. They had to constantly change places — someone is standing, someone is sitting.

According to the descriptions of the detainees, there were many beaten people in the yard, several

guys had partially "scalped" skin on their heads, ten people had abrasions, there was a guy with a huge hematoma on his cheek. Another man was bleeding from his mouth. The detainees asked for medical help for him and after an hour he was taken to a doctor.

For the first time, the detainees were given water (2–3 liters for all) 19 hours after the arrest, for the first time they were fed (1 loaf of bread for all) a day later. They began to go to the toilet 17 hours after the arrest.

"Again, it was already morning when they brought us water, it was probably three and a half liters. And for sixty-seven people they brought us these three and a half liters of water. Imagine that it was only possible to slightly moisten the lips.

"... 'I'm going to piss myself now.' They say to him: 'Now you get out of here and we will make sure that you also crap yourself.' Some boss came in, they took the man out, we heard the blows of truncheons, they pushed him back."

After that, some demands and appeals to the security forces ceased. If someone really wanted to go to the toilet, the detainees gave the bottles from which they drank, so that the person could urinate there. Then these bottles were rinsed, and when someone was allowed to go out, they were again filled with water for drinking.

The people in this concrete walking yard were in psychological shock, they were reassured only by the fact that they would not be beaten there.

Cells, CIP corridors

Some detainees from the cells on the second floor were transferred to the third floor. By the evening of that day, most of the detainees had been without food and normal drinking water for a day. Beatings of people had also resumed, both by riot police in black and balaclavas, and by CIP officers in police uniforms. One after another, paddy wagons with new detainees begin to arrive, the cells filled up even more.

"... it was heard that people were being taken out of other cells. They knocked — they were taken out and led to the second floor. There, on the second floor, they were beaten, and therefore it has already become a saying: 'If you behave badly, you will go to the second floor.'"

The process of signing protocols began in the morning. The detainees were taken out, lined up near the wall and told: *"Either you sign the protocol, you are given three basic units fine and you go home, or you do not sign the protocol and stay here for an incomprehensible period and will be punished."* Subsequently, it turned out that this was a hoax, no one was released according to the described scheme.

Some detainees signed the protocols without looking. Someone tried to study their protocol. They approached the table in twos, the employee closed the contents of the protocol and said: *"Sign here"*.

During the day, from 10:00 to 17:00, according to the majority of respondents, it was quiet and there were almost no beatings.

The whole day of August 10 passed in endless data updates, people in uniform or without uniforms walked and clarified who was in the cells.

Some searches of the detainees took place on the second floor. According to one of the interviewees, the detainees were put there in a very uncomfortable position — their hands were supposed to be behind their backs, their heads lowered very low. During the search, it was necessary to completely undress, sit down several times. After the search, the detainees knelt in the corridor for some time.

"And then we went out into the corridor and I was shocked that there were naked men in the line, the head between the knees, the buttocks up, on their knees. And they put us on our knees too. On your knees, and even poked in the back with this truncheon. It feels like they're going to shoot you in the back of the head."

After the searches, people were taken to overcrowded cells. According to the men, there were up to 5–8 people per seat. The women's cells were also 4–6 times overcrowded; for example, there were 35 people in a six-bed cell, and 13 in a three-bed cell.

There were no mattresses or bed linen in the cells. People slept on the floor, near the toilet, because there was nowhere else to lie down. Bright lights were on around the clock.

"The first night I fell asleep on the floor near the door with my head in the bedside table, because somehow I had to make a shade for myself. And, most interestingly, some girl managed to sleep on the bedside table too."

In some cells, women could not go to the toilet, as dirty water flowed out of it directly onto the floor, they had to collect it with towels. From this there was a terrible stench, there was no ventilation.

The detainees note that the cells on the second floor were very dirty and there were no basic hygiene products — toilet paper, soap. Women asked for toilet paper, pads, to which the security forces offered them to use a T-shirt. Only once an employee of the CIP brought a piece of cotton wool and a roll of bandage to the entire cell. The girls had to use sanitary masks for hygiene purposes.

It was very hot in the cells, and condensation dripped down the walls. On the second day, the guards were already opening the feeder so that people would not suffocate. The windows were closed. People were undressed, many sat in their shorts.

"We asked to open the 'feeder' so that there would be at least some air access to the cell. However, the feeder was periodically closed. As a punishment for any demands, the staff poured a bucket of water into the cell. Moreover, this was repeated several times."

"This cell was even smaller than ours, and there were already twice as many people in it as in ours. And the air temperature was... Well, it was hot in the first one. In this, in the second cell, the air temperature was even higher. There was no air, it was impossible to breathe at all. The humidity was such that it dripped from the ceiling. There was condensation on the walls. The floor was slippery. Two people fainted in front of me. When they finally opened the door, one of them just fell out of the cell onto the floor of the corridor. He was sick, but no one paid any attention to it."

The security forces behaved rudely, communicated mostly with obscenities. If they did not like something, as a punishment, the food supply window (feeder) was closed and people again suffocated without oxygen.

The detainees were not fed all this time. Only late in the evening they were given one loaf of bread for 21–38 people, that is, 50 grams for each. This bread was the first supper for a day of stay at the CIP.

According to the stories of one of the victims, he was tortured that day, demanding to give the access code to the phone. He refused.

"They made a wheel out of me — they threw me from behind, like a wheel, legs, arms and handcuffed me. I held on for 30–40 minutes. Lost consciousness. Well, then I had to say the code from the phone. The worst thing is that there was personal data of loved ones."

"... there was a guy, two meters tall, it was clear that he was a fan or an athlete. All his legs were beaten off from behind, in hematomas. He said that he was being beaten for a long time."

There were people in the cells in need of medical care, many needed regular medications (heart, hormonal, anti-diabetic). The security forces did not pay attention to their requests for the provision of medications. Only after much persuasion the CIP doctors examined the victims, but the help was incomplete. In one of the cells there was a woman with diabetes — in the end they allowed her to get insulin from her bag.

"They condescended to give her her own insulin. And what struck me was that they didn't even give her cotton wool. She injects, there is blood, and there are such unsanitary conditions. She says, 'So give me something.' And they gave her a piece of paper of some kind.

One woman's leg was injured during detention, blood oozed from her, and we asked for at least minimal treatment. They either did not respond to this or repeated the same words — 'You should have stayed at home, cook borscht!'"

Some of the girls felt sick, some had panic attacks.

The officers threatened to beat them to death if the detainees pressed the call button in the cell. One person asked for a blood pressure pill.

"They said: 'What the hell are you doing here without pills?' In our situation, in our country, you must always carry the pills with you, because you must not know when you will be taken away. It can happen anytime, anywhere."

In the cell of one of the interviewees, on the second floor, there was a man with a broken leg. His cellmates started knocking on the door with a request to call a doctor, but the security officer refused them in a very rude form — obscenity, ordered to be silent, "otherwise you will all die". At some point, the men, losing consciousness, began to knock on the door — to ask for help.

"The door opened, where 3 OMON officers were standing, which was evident from their uniforms, with a balaclava on their heads, who said that a punitive detachment had come, that I had to get out, and that I was 'fucked up.' I went out and at first stood while they beat me with truncheons. I did not shout, and they ordered me to sit face down on the floor, hands behind my back, after which they began to beat me with truncheons on my back. I tried to cover my kidneys. After the last blow to my face, my nose bled, they continued to beat me with truncheons."

Closer to dinner, the detainees began to be taken out of the cells to be filmed on a video camera. They had to give their first and last name, address of residence.

From 19:00 to 20:00, the beatings of the detainees resumed, they screamed heart-rendingly.

All night people could not sleep because they did not turn off the light. And also all night long they heard the sounds of arriving cars, loud screams, sounds of beatings and terrible moans.

August 11, 2020

Detained in the city continued to be brought to Akrestina.

On the night of August 10–11, beatings of detainees continued in the courtyard of the CIP. During the evening, two or three dozen paddy wagons arrived on the territory. The cars were moving in succession, the security forces in the courtyard of the CIP showed demonstrative atrocities and literally roared with anger, beating people getting out of the paddy wagons with truncheons.

The procedure for the "reception" of newcomers was as follows. People walked through the "corridor" with beatings, then they were forced to kneel facing the fence, their hands were behind their backs, and their foreheads rested on the ground. At the same time, blows with truncheons, screams, obscenities and insults did not stop.

The people detained earlier and already in the cells were completely disoriented in time. However, every day in the evenings, starting at about 10:00 pm, they heard the same sounds when paddy wagons arrived with new detainees. The newcomers were beaten, their screams and groans were heard, then they were herded into cells in the walking yard or into cells in the CIP.

00:00 – 07:00

Yard of the CIP

On August 11, the beatings of the detainees continued. Everything followed the same pattern. At night, when unloading from the paddy wagon, the victims were driven through the "corridor": the security forces lined up in two lines opposite each other and struck the detainees running between them. Then people were placed in the courtyard — an asphalt platform on the street, where they stayed for several hours, kneeling with their heads down. At night it became very cold and people froze. Some of them had torn clothes, and some did not even have shoes on their feet.

"In the courtyard, we were put against the wall on our knees, hands on the wall and head down. Whoever had numb limbs, who tried to somehow move or ask questions, were severely beaten."

An employee of the CIP, accompanied by security officials, approached those kneeling near the wall and wrote down the data on paper: last name, first name, patronymic, year of birth and place of work. At the same time, they were not allowed to raise their heads and look at them. The employee humiliated people, if someone turned his head, he was beaten.

"A woman walked around, picked up someone by the hair, someone by the T-shirt, asked for their last name, first name, date of birth. She was accompanied by two police officers, there were no riot police there. They walked around without masks, without balaclavas, but it was impossible to look [at them], because if you raise your head, then you will be severely punished."

"Another girl came up already from Akrestina. She went to the next one to ask her full name and address, and the man began to answer her. To which she told him in a rude manner: 'Get the dick out of your mouth and say it normally.'"

Despite the fact that it was extremely dangerous to look at the security forces, some victims were able to remember and later identify their tormentors. Many remembered Zhenya for his special sadism¹¹ whose cruelty frightened even his fellow security officials.

11. According to the testimonies of the detainees, this is Yevgeny Vrublevsky, an employee of the CIP. The illegal actions of E. Vrublevsky are evidenced by many citizens who served administrative arrest at the CIP at different times. <https://spring96.org/be/news/107040>

*"In the courtyard, we were personally beaten by such a ***, who was called Zhenya. He beat me and said: 'What, do you fucking like throwing Molotov cocktails?'. I didn't throw anything, I smiled. He beat everyone who was there, beat people who were wearing glasses: 'Well, four-eyed, damn it, I'll kick you now!'. We were on our knees, hands behind our heads, and this Zhenya constantly beat us. And the other two people who were there said: 'Zhenya, calm down, stop doing this.' And he continued.»*

Walking yards of the CIP

After being in the courtyard of the CIP, the detainees were herded into overcrowded walking yards or taken to cells. Before that, they were stripped and searched. Some had to stay in the walking yards until the morning. It was very cold at night, a cold wind blew through the bars. All the detainees were dressed in light clothing and had to huddle together to keep warm. In this position, they stood for 5-6 hours, while for each movement they were poured with cold water. The guards constantly threatened, laughed at the detainees. To one who was heavily bloodied, they said: *"They made soap out of people like you during the Second World War."*

"Everyone was in a state of horror, everything was perceived as a kind of concentration camp. We distinctly heard how people were beaten in the neighboring courtyard, a certain woman was especially zealous."

"We slept in heaps, because it was very cold, at night the guards poured cold water over us. Constant screams, groans from neighboring cells. Some were threatened with sticking a truncheon up their asses."

As a result, some of the detainees spent four days in the walking yard. There were no minimum conditions for personal hygiene. The victims say that during this time they were taken out to the toilet only twice. In other walking yards, they didn't take out at all, people were forced to relieve themselves right there.

"It was very cold in the walking yard at night. There was no toilet in it, and the detained girls were forced to use a hatch in the floor, while male guards watched from above."

"It was just wild, very wild. They throw a guy in there. He stood for about fifteen minutes, probably, according to the sensations, and said: 'I'm sorry, but I can't take it anymore.' He takes off his pants, takes off his underpants, and begins to wipe the feces with his underpants."

The detainees were not given water or food. When they asked for bread, they threw in one loaf. In 26 hours, a maximum of five two-liter bottles of tap water were given.

"We were standing, freezing, someone was sleeping, someone was not sleeping. When we asked for food, they threw one loaf of bread into the cell like to cattle — it was on the night of August 11 at 3-4 o'clock."

Cells, CIP corridors

The beatings continued on the way to cells: the victims ran up the stairs in their underwear and were beaten with truncheons by the security forces standing on either side of them. The undressed detainees with packages in their hands ended up in cells.

In small rooms, designed for five or six people, several dozen were kept. Someone could sit, someone could stand, but they could not all sit or lie down at the same time. The cells had cold concrete floors. People adapted to the conditions as best they could: they took off their sneakers and sat on them,

and put their feet on the removed insoles. It was possible to sit like that for a while. They had to sleep on the floor, and under the beds, on the beds they slept in turns.

There was not enough air in the overcrowded cells, people asked to open at least a "feeder" hole, but the security forces did not respond to their requests. Instead, they poured buckets of water into the chamber and beat those who asked. Many of the respondents say that they tried not to press the button to call the staff, because for this they could be beaten the whole cell. In addition, people were taken out one by one and beaten for no reason.

"Once I heard a woman being taken out of a cell, she sounded so old. I don't know why, but then I was sure that they were filming her, and they said to her: 'Here you were with a poster 'No to fascism'. 'What is fascism?' She says, 'Well, that's what you do.' And they told her: 'No! What we are doing is called sadism.' And a blow with a truncheon."

"Often someone was taken out of the cell at night, from neighboring cells to the corridor. They were beaten and brought back. And if there are traces of blood on the floor, you must wipe it with your T-shirt, and then wash the T-shirt so that they cannot find fault."

In the cells there were people with various chronic diseases: diabetes, epilepsy, heart diseases. Even during acute attacks of the disease, medical assistance was not provided to the detainees in most cases, requests for medical assistance were ignored by the security forces.

"There was a man with epilepsy in the cell, he had a seizure — he fell to the floor, began to twitch, foam flowed from his mouth. Someone shouted to hold his head, began to beat on the door, to call the doctor. An ambulance officer came and said it would pass. An hour later, the man had a seizure again, the same "doctor" came, looked at him: 'Doesn't pass? Okay, take him!'. And four detained guys carried him out and put him in the corridor. What happened to him next is unknown."

"The detainees started knocking on the doors, yelling, shouting: 'Call the doctor!'. A nurse came who was beating when she was asked for help (a blonde with a bob). She took him to the corridor, gave him a sniff of ammonia, hit him in the face with the words: 'You were able to go to the rally, and now you can stand.' She changed his bandage and sent him back..."

"He asked the paramedic to call an ambulance. To which she replied: 'I can only call you a hearse to the morgue.'"

At night, the detainees heard the blows of truncheons, inhuman screams and groans, which continued until about dawn. Only after 03:00–04:00 the beatings and screams began to gradually subside.

"The toughest thing is when I woke up at one in the morning from the screams of people. The men were beaten so hard with truncheons that one could hear the crunching of bones, the screams were so strong that people seemed to be burned. Adult men shouted: 'Mom! Help! Save!'"

One of the detainees said that she was kept in a cell with a window overlooking the gate, where paddy wagons enter. The victim calculated that 7–8 paddy wagons arrived every night. She and her cellmates saw how more and more detainees were brought. Women heard how they were beaten, how they screamed, how barefoot men were chased down the corridor. The victim said that some women, especially those who had their son, husband or brother detained, had tantrums. From the memories of a woman:

"And I remember that for many in the cell, the psyche gave up at these moments. I remember there was a woman with two daughters and she just started screaming at some point. She plugged her ears and started screaming, howling in horror at what was happening. Some people were just crying."

07:00 — 24:00

In the morning the mass beatings in the cells stopped. The detainees continued to be taken to the corridors, where, under the pressure from the security forces, without reading, they signed the necessary documents. In the morning, the trials began, which took place right in the CIP building, on the fourth floor. Many detainees who remained in the yard after a night lay or stood in an uncomfortable position all day, awaiting trial or transfer to cells.

During the day, people were no longer purposefully beaten, but from time to time it was possible to get hit by a security official. Most often, this happened when one of the detainees turned to them with requests — to bring water, take them to the toilet, provide medical assistance, or simply about the opportunity to stretch, as many of them had a body numb from a long stay in an uncomfortable static position.

Yard of the CIP

People continued to be brought to the CIP. There was no security corridor during the day. There was a bright light in the courtyard. There were two security officials in black uniforms: one near the paddy wagon, the second near the wall. The detainees had to run very quickly from the paddy wagon to the wall, and the first one beat people getting out of the car with a truncheon.

"We were lying face down, it was a position on our knees, face on the ground, hands behind our backs and head buried in the ground, legs under us. There was a rough voice of one commander, to be honest, I assume that it was Balaba, because he was in command of everything."

Then the detainees were taken to a room where the seized things were registered and described. There they were told to line up, take off their rings, take out their shoelaces, and strip naked. The security forces cut the strings from the hoodies of the detainees and searched pockets.

After being examined, people were beaten again with loud screams and obscene language. As the victims said, the security forces were sure that people came to the rallies because they were well paid for it. Uncontrollably beating the detainees, they kept shouting about it.

Walking yards of the CIP

The torture of the detainees continued in the walking yards. The security forces carried out "prevention" — they beat them with truncheons with the words: *"What? Will you continue?"* The detainees unanimously answered: *"No, of course not."* However, they still received blows with truncheons.

It got very cold at night. The victims were freezing and therefore pressed tightly against each other. All were beaten and could hardly stand on their feet. They didn't give food. Water was brought from the toilet in plastic bottles in a limited amount — about 2–3 bottles per 50 people per day. These bottles were also used for small needs, since there were no toilets in the walking yards. There were not enough bottles, and some people had to relieve themselves right there. If someone asked for food, to contact relatives or a lawyer they were beaten for this.

At about six or seven in the morning on August 11, the detainees heard people from the cells on the second floor knocking on the door and shouting *"Let us out!"* According to the interviewees, within 15 minutes these people were taken to the corridor between two walking yards and severely beaten:

"At the beginning the dialogue was: 'Who makes demands about food, phone calls and a lawyer?'. With these words, they simply began to beat them, they beat them for a very long time, people screamed, moaned. It was literally behind the wall, we heard it all."

Some of the victims were in a stressful state, from shock they did not understand what was happening to them. The victims were not provided with medical assistance.

"You are talking to a person, and he is like this: 'Did you do it to me? Why did you guys beat me up like that? Where is my wife?'"

"One guy had a scalped head because one of the riot police cut off his hair along with the skin on the crown. Blood oozed from there, there was a fresh wound. We asked for medical help, as many were ill."

Cells, CIP corridors

In the morning, they again began to take them to the proceedings, which were held in the building of the CIP. The detainees, as before, were promised that if they sign the protocols, they would only be given a fine and they would immediately go home. Many believed and agreed to this. However, almost all got an administrative arrest.

The process looked like this. The detainees were taken to the office where the judge and the secretary were. The judge read out the protocol and case materials, ascertained the position of the detainees. It was impossible to defend one's rights in court. The courts did not react in any way to allegations of torture, ill-treatment, facts of psychological violence, as well as violations of procedural rights. Applications for the provision of a defense lawyer were denied, citing the fact that the detainee did not have an agreement with a lawyer. One of the victims said that she filed a motion to stop torture against her and other detainees, to which **Judge Motyl** replied: *"I am only a judge. This is not my area of expertise. With complaints please contact the head of the CIP."*

The victim told the court in detail about who and under what circumstances tortured her. The judge asked only a few formal questions and did not react to this statement.

Victim: *"They beat my head against the wall all the time, they tried to tear my inguinal ligaments, they twisted my arms for refusing to sign the protocol, which I was not even familiar with."*

Judge Motyl: *"Names of the employees who did this?"*

Victim: *"You know, when they beat me, they refused to introduce themselves."*

Judge Motyl: *"Can you identify?"*

Victim: *"Of course I can. Here she is, standing next to me, and she brought me. It was she who beat, and another with wide dark eyebrows."*

After the trial, people were returned to stuffy, overcrowded cells. Queues formed in the cells to the window to sit there for a while to breathe.

From the windows of some cells, one could see what was happening in the yard — the detainees were severely beaten there. Several interviewees mention an incident they saw from the third-floor cell windows:

"I remember such a moment: a man is beaten directly hard, and he, like a dog, closed somewhere, scratches and shouts: 'Please don't!' He begged there."

*I remember that at the other end of this yard, someone, realizing what would happen to him, shouted '**Long live Belarus!**'. And all this herd ran to look for who was shouting. They beat everyone who was standing in that direction."*

People sitting in cells at night could not stand it and, looking at these cruel beatings, shouted *"Fascists!"*

Bastards! What are you doing?". Security forces ran into the cells and severely beat them. Buckets of water with bleach were poured into some cells.

In the cells there were detainees with disabilities, with various diseases, including those of a mental nature. In the context of what is happening, these people especially needed medical assistance, but the security forces did not pay any attention to their condition.

"One of the women had a very severe migraine. Since the light [in the cell] was never turned off, she had to sit with her head in the nightstand."

August 12, 2020

00:00 — 07:00

Yard of the CIP

At night, with an interval of 30–40 minutes, more and more people were brought to the CIP. Someone was placed against the wall, someone was ordered to kneel so that the buttocks lay on their heels, their head rested on the ground, their hands were behind their backs or behind their heads. The position is very painful, as all parts of the body become numb, and people were forced to be in this position for a large number of hours. It was very cold, but it was not possible to snuggle up to each other.

The officers approached and asked each detainee for personal data, they had to shout out their first and last name, year of birth. If someone did not shout loudly enough, they beat him. At the same time, they were searched, taking everything out of their pockets (later it turned out that money had been stolen from many of the detainees). Medical assistance was not provided, they did not take them to the toilet, they did not give water, they insulted and beat people. Some were beaten so that they could not walk, they lay on the ground, their bodies no longer reacted to the beatings. Those who could not walk were laughed at and mocked by the staff. They constantly asked: *“Who paid you? Where is 50 euros?”*

“A deaf-mute was beaten in my presence, because he could not answer questions.”

New groups of detainees were continuously brought in. They were beaten in one of the yards. That night, paint-marked people and bikers were especially severely beaten. Inside Akrestina, some detainees were also marked with a marker, including those who spoke Belarusian.

“These were terrible screams, it was something unimaginable. There was some kind of horror, as if their bones were cracking there, screams as if from the underworld. There were special instructions to beat harder those with tattoos with white-red-white colors of the national flag and a national coat of arms — Chase. Some of the victims shouted: ‘I love OMON’, while they were beaten with truncheons.

After that everyone was brought into the detention center building and forced to undress completely. All processes were accompanied by beatings. The victims testify to several badly beaten people who were coughing up blood.

“One guy who was beaten, apparently, was already very desperate and began to shout: ‘Shame! Shame! Shame!’ He already understood that they were beating him anyway, so at least it would be better to preserve his pride and dignity. This a priori meant that he would be beaten even more. And he deliberately went to great injuries. This is done either out of great willpower or out of desperation.”

That night, some girls were also beaten. The girl who was a biker was especially severely beaten.

Closer to six o'clock in the morning, some of the detainees were taken to the basement of the CIP. Those who could not run and fell were beaten with truncheons. At the same time, other detainees (about 15–20 people), who had been taken to the CIP earlier and were kept in cells, were taken to the courtyard, ordered to lie on the ground and security officials started beating their legs with truncheons, after which they were forced to sit down 50 times near the wall. Those who, in the opinion of the employees, did it poorly, were even stronger beaten on the legs.

“And such a sound of impact, as if they were hitting plastic, on a car. You hear how this riot policeman is directly groaning, suffocating, physically already tired of the fact

that he is beating. And he directly screams, as if he is preparing for this blow, and he puts all his strength that he can put into it. And he beats one person. And he doesn't hit alone. It was just terrible."

When the security officials got tired, they changed, and the beatings began with renewed vigor. All this went on until morning.

Walking yards of the CIP

According to the detainees, there were 176 people in one of the walking yards¹². There were no toilets. People were brought there and forced to kneel, head to the floor and arms back. The arms were tied with zip ties. If one of the security officials noticed that the detainee's ties were untied, he began to scream and beat this person. They stood in several rows, completely naked, with their heads resting on the floor close "to someone's buttocks". It was an incredible humiliation. Here is what one of the detained women says about this:

"When [I] was being led, I saw how half-naked and naked men lying on the floor were beaten with truncheons in the neighboring walking yard. There was blood on the walls and floor."

One of the detainees asked for water at five o'clock in the morning, the guards laughed, and a couple of minutes later they brought two buckets of cold water and poured it on the men. The night was cold, people stood naked on the concrete floor in the open air, huddled together to keep warm. Water was given rarely and that it was barely enough for a sip for each. While in the yard, the detainees heard well how others were being beaten.

CIP corridor, cells

The CIP corridor was called the "corridor of shame" by the security forces. When the detainees ran along it, they showed with a truncheon where to run. It was necessary to guess where to run from the truncheon blow while raising your head was forbidden. Some of the beaten hobbled on one leg, it was dark and it was not at all clear in which direction to move. There was a tile on the floor and a bloody trail stretched along it, it was possible to navigate along it, where to run.

In the corridor, the detainees were once again forced to kneel with their heads on the floor, their hands were tightened with tourniquets behind their backs so that after five minutes they all turned purple. They then untied their tourniquets and forced them to strip naked in the same position.

A female officer took part in these actions and hit some of the detained men in the groin area. One of the security officials approached the detainees and put a truncheon near the anus.

Things were put into a bag and on command, with their heads down as low as possible, the detainees ran straight down the corridor to the cells.

One man, about 50 years old, had a heart attack during this process, he turned white and began to slide down the wall. One of the detainees had a severed eyelid.

"The doctor came... they gave an injection in the heart, although such injections are not always possible. We heard how terribly this man screamed. The doctor told him: 'What, bitch, do you also want to leave this place through the hospital?' And they sent him to a cell."

All the cells were very crowded. There were people with various severe injuries. Someone was sleeping,

¹² From the testimonies of the victims, the number of detainees in one walking yard varies from 45 to 176 people. There were several such walking yards in the CIP.

someone was sitting near the door, someone managed to sleep on the bedside table. There was only water in the tap, people were not fed, the lights were constantly on and the screams of people being beaten in the street could be heard.

07:00 — 24:00

Yard of the CIP

On the morning of August 12, the security forces beat the newly arrived detainees less than at night. People continued to be brought from different police departments of Minsk, some were immediately taken to the courts, and some were waiting for their turn in the courtyard of the CIP.

They brought one guy with a white bracelet, whom the security forces called the “coordinator”. They laid him on the grass and began to beat him. They beat him on the back, on the legs, on the coccyx, on the buttocks. They called the victim a Nazi. Then he was forced to shout: “*Long live Belarus!*”, “*I love OMON*”. They beat him long and cruelly. At some point, the guy said that he did not like the «dogs of the regime.» After that, the security forces began to beat him even harder until he lost consciousness.

It was quite cold outside, so most of those who were in the yard and were lightly dressed were freezing. The victims continued to be denied medical assistance, they were also periodically threatened, insulted and beaten, they were not taken to the toilet, someone went “under themselves”. People were on their knees with their heads on the ground and their hands behind their backs. Small stones injured the knees and face, and the ground and people were covered in blood.

“You already transfer the weight of your body to your head, and you are already standing, digging into these stones with your head. We stayed like that for probably four hours.”

In such painful positions, the detainees could spend from several hours to a whole day. Several victims recall how a female doctor walked between the rows of detainees and asked the security forces why there were so few broken heads. She did not examine anyone, she did not help anyone.

Those detainees who were beaten to such an extent that they could not walk were taken away by an ambulance during the day, but the doctors could not take away everyone they wanted. The security forces themselves decided who to give to the doctors and who to leave. Some of the beaten were dragged straight out of the ambulances, officers were forbidding them to be taken to hospitals.

“He [the employee] just goes into the ambulance, asks the doctors something, takes a person by the scruff of the neck and throws him out of the ambulance with the words: ‘That’s it, the freebie is over.’ So four or three ambulances just ended up empty. They couldn’t take us away.»

Some people began to be taken to other places of detention: Zhodino, Mogilev, Slutsk.

Some of the detainees began to be released, but before that, OMON officers beat them again in the courtyard of the CIP. People were put on their knees with their faces on the ground, then they made a “corridor”, they beat them for 3–5 minutes. Then they wrung their hands and led, but in fact they carried them to the fence, because they could no longer walk. They were ordered to stand on the pavement with their feet on the curb with their hands behind their backs, and rest their heads against the fence. And they stayed in that position for a long time.

The voices of the volunteers could be heard behind the wall of the CIP, and if they spoke loudly, the detainees were beaten even harder. Then some of the detainees were taken out, but nothing was said at the same time, no one understood where they were being taken.

Walking yards of the CIP

People were in the walking yards all day on August 12. During the day, they were only allowed to stand there, and the victims talked among themselves so that someone would not fall asleep from fatigue and sit down. For this they could beat everyone who was there. For the whole day they gave out 3–4 liters of water for 127 people. There was one sip of water per person, but water did not reach the back rows at all.

The security forces did not respond to requests for medical assistance. One of the men had a bowel movement, before that he was severely beaten. Some guys were just taken out and beaten. Many had fractures of the upper limbs. There were people with severe bruises of the retroperitoneal space, kidneys, with broken ribs, with broken teeth.

"Then people realized that I was very ill, I really needed medical help. They started knocking on the door. Some kind of supervisor comes up, looks through the peephole and says something like 'this dog is not allowed'... Then some more time passed, and I already felt really bad. All the people began to shout that now the person might die. After that, the doctor came, and everyone parted. The doctor examined me, took off my clothes from my back, took off my pants, after that I heard people: 'Wow, this is horror!' They were all shocked... The doctor was also shocked."

One detainee was badly beaten in the detention center, he began to have heart problems.

"One guy complained that his heart hurts... he said that after what happened there on the 11th... 'we were beaten and I started having these pains.' The doctor immediately made him an ECG, and saw there were huge problems. He... made him take off his shirt. The guy took..."

And this doctor was so serious when he saw that the guy was all bruised. He: 'What are you doing?! He is in such a state, you beat this kid like that, he is young, you almost killed him!' He demanded to call the senior of the shift. The deputy chief came running. The doctor said that he would draw up a document about what happened here, that they almost killed a man... The doctor urgently requested hospitalization for this guy in the hospital... He called the hospital to urgently prepare a department for the guy... After that, the guy was urgently thrown into an ambulance."

In another walking yard, a security officer organized such entertainment: whoever is the last to get dressed is beaten. That's what he said: *"Whoever dresses last gets beaten."*

During the day, a bucket was placed so that the detainees could go to the toilet. The bucket instantly overflowed as everyone endured the whole night. As a result, it simply poured out of the bucket, and by the evening a third of this courtyard was in a puddle of urine, and the detainees were standing in the remaining territory.

There were women in one of the walking yards. There was no toilet there. There was a hole in the floor, and the women went there, shielding each other from video cameras.

When it began to get dark, some of the detainees began to demand that they be taken to the cells. People were afraid that they would not survive the second night in the walking yard because of the night cold. After that, a security officer came, ordered everyone to line up near the wall, and they began to take them to the cells.

Cells, CIP corridors

In the corridors, they continued to undress people who were taken from the walking yards. The floors

of the corridors were covered in blood and urine.

"At that moment they started beating me because I couldn't stand up. Somehow I was put straight. My legs were trembling and I could fall. ...I don't know how many people were there, it's called the 'corridor of death' or 'corridor of torture'... They stood in the 'corridor'... I needed to go further... They beat me. I could not walk, from behind the riot police hit me on the back very hard. And at that moment I told him: 'Hit anywhere, but don't hit him in the back, because I have a congenital deformity of the chest, I can become disabled and I can stay lying here.'"

"They put me on my knees near the entrance to the walking yard ... and started beating me on the heels... At that moment... one of the riot policemen says: 'Scream 'I love OMON'!" I start shouting: 'I love OMON'. He says: 'Louder!'. I scream even louder... At that moment, they continued to hit me on the heels... After that, he started filming it on video on his phone... and sent it to someone, either to his wife, or to someone else, or to some friends... "

People were also kicked. If someone undressed slowly, he was beaten. It was very difficult to undress, because my arms and legs were numb. They did not hesitate to beat women. Before taking them to the cells, one of the employees put each detainee against the wall and beat them.

People ended up in overcrowded cells. From the testimony: *"there were 32 people in the 4-bed cell", "42 people in the 5-bed cell", "52 people in the 4-bed cell", "40 people in the 5-bed cell", "in the 6-bed cell – 33 people".*

On the same day, food was brought to some cells (and some detainees ate for the first time since their detention on August 9, that is, three days later). Someone was given porridge, others were given one loaf of bread for 25 people in the cell.

If something was demanded from the staff in one of the cells, the door would open and the security officers would pour a bucket of water into the cell, and in fact onto the people. It was already stuffy in the cell, and after the water was poured out, it became unbearably humid. It was impossible to sit or stand on the floor.

In the cells, many people were injured. Some had their hair and skin cut off, some had broken noses. Everyone was under a lot of stress. According to those interviewed, there was a feeling that some of the detainees were going crazy. The guy in one of the cells was hysterical, he was badly beaten, his head was cut, and he thought that everyone present wanted to kill him. Another guy periodically "jammed": somehow, sitting on the bedside table, he fell asleep, then woke up 30 minutes later and started saying things like "so, I need to go to the pool", "order food for myself". Some women also "went crazy" from intense stress.

"She called the legs of the detainees beautiful vases. With the words: 'Well, that's it, girls! For now, I'm going home.' She went to the door of the cell, pulled the door, knocked, turned around and sat back on the bed. She had diarrhea during the night. She started walking around the detainees, and women tried to stop it, providing psychological assistance with words of support."

There were women who lost consciousness. One of the detainees, who was 58 years old, was beaten by an employee for a white handkerchief.

"'Bitch, you are here for Tikhanovskaya, you are such a creature.' She was beating her when she was taking her to the cell."

Proceedings were held in some cells and right in the corridors during the day. Some of the detainees were beaten when they were taken to court. One of the victims said:

"They took me to court, downstairs. In my opinion, court hearings were held on the second floor... They didn't let me get acquainted with the case materials, they told me: 'Sign.' I say: 'But I do not agree with what is written there.' And this [employee] is standing behind, hit me with a truncheon in the neck: 'Sign!' Before the judge, he said: 'Shut your mouth, sign!'... In a mask, in a balaclava. A healthy 'horse' in a balaclava, blue uniform. Who was there — I have no idea... When I signed the documents, the hearing began. 'Are you guilty?' I say: 'I do not recognize.' 'Why? Tell me how it was.' I told her. 'Ok, you are guilty. Fourteen days of administrative arrest to you.' That, in fact, is the whole hearing."

After the trial, people were filmed. They were asked about the reasons for their detention. Toward evening, people began to be taken out in threes for a conversation with KGB officers. Before being sent to Zhodzina, an employee Kristina called women whores, saying that they would be subjected to "group rape".

The detainees were not fed for three days. Only on August 12, after lunch, did some of the detainees receive their first portion of food (porridge, bread and tea). On August 12 and 13 they were fed once a day.

"On the third day they threw us a loaf of bread for 25-26 people."

August 13, 2020

"... one of the guys with very serious leg injuries asked for help. When he asked for an ambulance, he was told: 'The ambulance is behind you. If you want an ambulance, crawl!'"

Throughout the day, some detainees were taken to other TDFs, and new ones were taken to the CIP.

People who were in the open air in the courtyard of the CIP and in the walking yards froze to death. Along with this, beatings, humiliation, intimidation and insults continued. The detainees continued to be denied medical care. Many respondents say that the security forces interfered with the work of ambulance doctors and did not allow even the seriously wounded to be taken away.

Cells and walking yards, as before, remained overcrowded by 6–7 times or more (for example, 25–30 people were accommodated in a 4-bed cell). The conditions of detention are the most severe: condensate flowed down the walls, there was nothing to breathe. The state of health of many victims worsened due to hunger, lack of sleep, lack of oxygen and experienced stress. Food and drinking water were not provided or provided in very limited quantities. People continued to be tortured with sleep deprivation.

On the night of August 12-13, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, the head of the public security police Alexander Barsukov arrived at the CIP. It was on his orders that after he left the detention center, without any legal procedures, they began to release the detainees.

00:00 — 07:00

Yard of the CIP

That night they began to release people. In the courtyard of the CIP, the security forces first forced most of the detainees to lie on the ground, and then severely beat them before being released. At the same time, they did not hide that they were doing this out of revenge for the protests and so that people would not go to these actions in the future. The victims screamed in pain, but they continued to be beaten even more. People of non-standard appearance were beaten the most: long-haired, with dreadlocks, tattoos, piercings, as well as Belarusian speakers. The terrible screams of the beaten were heard by volunteers and relatives of the detainees outside the territory of the CIP and detainees in the cells of the CIP. After the beatings, people were released, ordered to run without stopping or looking back.

"Somewhere at the beginning of 5 am, I was taken to the courtyard. There was a gate, and beyond the gate was another yard. And from there came groans, screams, screams. It was their way to say goodbye to detainees."

I had to run to the wall. An OMON officer was assigned to each of us. He told me: 'If you fall, then you will be fucked up.' It was necessary to stand near the wall, raise your arms up and twist your palms, stretch your legs. At that moment, he began to kick me with his feet to the legs in the painful zones. He beat me for a long time. Then ordered me to lie down on the ground, my hands behind my back, at that moment he started beating me with a truncheon from my buttocks to my legs. It was necessary to sing the anthem at this time. He beat me for a long time, I endured and was silent. Then he began to remind words I forgot. I began to repeat after him, the blows were not so frequent. Then you had to get up and run along the fence in the opposite direction. There was a corridor again. We were beaten. You just had to run to the exit."

"They ordered me to lie face down on the ground. And, with the words, 'such a hairstyle"

is not fashionable now,' cut off most of the dreadlocks with a knife. Then they said to join the main group. All the guys were already standing along the wall, facing the wall. And behind every person there was a riot policeman. And he starts to beat with a truncheon on the thighs and buttocks — it hurts a lot. I screamed, moaned, he yelled something back at me. He steps on you even stronger, holds you with his foot.

"I saw the walls, the white fence, the walls of the building, there were guys everywhere. Around the perimeter. I don't know how many there were. Everything was filled with guys and they were let out in groups and beaten before they were released."

"They put me first on the ground, stood on my feet, several blows to my legs at once, then another. There were 20 of us. When it was all over, I almost could not get up — they did their best on me. I understood that if I didn't get up now, I would go back to the cell. A soldier helped me to get up."

Walking yards of the CIP

People who were at night in the walking yards, actually on the street, were freezing. In each walking yard at that moment there were from 80 to 100 people. They were brutally beaten by the security forces. In the morning they threw bread into the yards, each got about 100 grams.

"Then they ordered me to get dressed and brought me back to this walking yard. There were 91 of us exactly. And we were already there for about 3 hours. It was very cold as it was around midnight. We began to freeze and dozens of people, dozens of adult men, stood up, huddled together to keep warm, shared clothes, because someone was even without shoes, in shorts, in a T-shirt. One was without a T-shirt, that is, it was unbearable. There were so many people in such a small square that it was impossible even for everyone to sit on the floor. So we took turns sitting down. So most of the time I had to stand up in the cold. All night we heard screams coming from the yard, people were obviously beaten and tortured. In such a way we stayed until the morning. In the morning the doors opened, we were given 6 loaves, 6 loaves of bread for all."

The detainees somehow tried to fall asleep, but no one really managed to sleep, there was no place on the concrete floor. In one of the courtyards, about 80 people sat completely naked until late in the evening. There were no latrines in these courtyards, so the small drain holes were used as a toilet. There was not enough drinking water for everyone, as the security forces brought no more than two or three one and a half liter bottles to the courtyard, where there could be more than a hundred people.

New detainees were brought in at night. They were psychologically abused and beaten.

"You could hear how people were beaten, their screams were heard, the security forces forced them to shout 'I love OMON! I love OMON!' People sang the anthem of the Republic of Belarus. It was heard them sing the anthem, they shout 'louder, louder', they sing even louder, they are beaten further. People are already wheezing, but they continue to beat them. I heard heartbreaking screams, the crackle of stun guns, the screams of employees. There was a feeling that they were taken there stupidly to beat, since no questions were asked there. People shouted 'Enough! Help!' until they shut up.»

"If someone had outerwear in the cells, they put it on the floor so that it would be warmer to lie down. From fatigue, someone fell asleep even on the cold concrete floor. In one of these cells, about 80 people sat completely naked until late in the evening."

Cells, CIP corridors

Some detainees were taken out of their cells into the yard and beaten. People in the cells heard blows and terrible screams of the beaten. Many testify that hearing the sounds of these tortures was psychologically unbearable.

"On the night of August 12 and 13, I could clearly hear the screams of beaten men who asked for help and called for their mothers from the courtyard and from the cell. And each time it lasted for three hours."

"I heard how at night people were taken out of their cells and beaten in the prison yard. There were sounds of blows and long drawn-out screams. Someone asked, begged, made excuses: 'It was not me who threw stones', etc."

"While in the cell, I heard how detainees were brought in paddy wagons and beaten in the yard. There was a terrible howl."

All cells were overcrowded 5-6 times. There was not enough air, people fainted from stuffiness. They were not provided with medical assistance.

"There were 17 (seventeen) of us in the 3-bed cell. No mattresses, nothing."

"Because of the stuffiness, the man in the cell on the third floor became ill, so the doctor was called to him, whose reaction was: 'Well, if he dies, it's okay. We will remember him.'"

At some point, the security forces began to walk around the cells and say that the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs would soon arrive. They warned not to say anything "extra". In some cells, where the most beaten were kept, the lights were turned off. Soon Alexander Barsukov arrived at the CIP. Before his arrival, the most beaten were taken out of the cells, and medicines were given to those who needed it. Barsukov walked around the cells with a group of people filming and promised to release everyone. After his visit at night, the detainees were gradually released.

"Literally 5 minutes later, Barsukov arrived. He began to say that everyone would be released, that not all employees were bad, some were 'going too far.' And he asked: 'Were you beaten in the cell?'. We said that they didn't beat us in the cell, because they beat us up to the cell. At that moment, the woman was filming. He said: 'That's it, I promise you that we will let you go now.' Everyone smiled. And at that moment he again moved away and the woman filmed that the detainees were so happy and contented in the cell."

"This general was Barsukov. And he comes in like that, some women come in with him with video cameras turned on. We were all told to get ready, not to say anything extra. Up to the fact that what you say will determine whether you will be released or not."

"We were told they would let us go, 'but [it] will depend on what you say. Therefore, think whether you want to get out of here today or not.' Entering the cell, Barsukov asked questions: 'Are they beating you here?' Although it was obvious that they were beating — everyone was not even blue, but black. We all said that we were not beaten. He said that they would let us go, but that they do not want to see us at any meetings anymore."

*"When Deputy Interior Minister Barsukov came, we were not told exactly who it was. They said they would go around now. They said that if you want to leave this place alive, then **no one beat anyone**. Although this is unrealistic, because personally there was not a single person who wasn't beaten in my cell. Everyone was somehow beaten somewhere."*

07:00 — 24:00

Yard of the CIP

All day long, detainees from the CIP were transported to other TDFs. At the same time, the security forces brought new ones. They were not provided with medical assistance, people with tattoos, dreadlocks, long hair, piercings, Belarusian-speaking and, according to law enforcers, belonging to the LGBTQ community, were severely beaten. All those who were transferred to other TDFs were kept standing facing the wall with their hands up for 3–4 hours before being assigned to paddy wagons. Those who were not transported and who were not severely beaten were released little by little.

"An elderly, obese man, apparently a diabetic, who was standing in the crowd of detainees, suddenly turned blue and collapsed to the ground. Everyone began to call for help, and a health worker in a red vest with a cross, a huge unshaven man, slowly approached the lying man. The paramedic not only did anything to help the man, he did not even bend over him, and, moreover, kicked him, and then forced him to crawl into the room."

"And as soon as you somehow turn your head or move, you immediately get a blow with a truncheon. A guy was standing nearby, he had Scandinavian runes tattooed on his arm. Officer came up and said: 'What are you, a fascist? What is it? Come on, let's talk.' He took him away, hit him with a truncheon several times and put him back. And they clung to a lot of people. 'Who pays you?', 'Why can't you live, you brute?', 'I haven't been at home for you know how long because of creatures like you?'"

Walking yards of the CIP

In the morning, the security forces began throwing bread into the walking yards. It was like feeding animals: they opened the doors and threw in several loaves of bread, five to eight, for 80 to 100 people. Many by that time had not eaten for several days. They also brought a very limited amount of water, not everyone had enough even for a sip. Water was brought in plastic bottles or teapots, and everyone drank from the neck, which in the midst of COVID-19 was a threat to health and even life. In the evening it got colder and the people in the walking yards froze again.

"They brought us water. Three liters was the maximum, the kettle was metal. There was not enough water, there were the most fierce disputes over water. Conflicts arose precisely because of the water, that someone took two sips, and had to take one sip. I really wanted to drink. I saw the guys who were beaten, they say 'the throat is dry, I'm thirsty.' For all the time, we thought, they brought us 3 times 4.5 liters of water. Then, a few hours later, the door was opened for us and they began throwing loaves of black bread. We counted and figured that one loaf for 6 people."

"At about 10 p.m. on August 13, they came to our cell and said they would take us out for a walk. We were all taken for a walk in the walking yard. There were already people there. As we later calculated, there were 120 of us in the walking yard. In this walking yard we were until 12 o'clock the next day. From 22:00 to 12:00 hours, during this time we were given 6 liters of water, 3 bottles of 2 liters each. Everyone drank from bottles. Among us was a young man who was just in his underwear, he had nothing on his legs. At the same time, the floor and walls are concrete, the ceiling is a lattice. Someone gave him insoles from sneakers, some clothes, and they put him in the center. Everyone was freezing."

Cells, CIP corridors

In the morning, they continued court hearings, some on Skype, others offline. At the same time, the judges ignored the complaints of the victims of torture, did not intervene when the security forces beat people right in front of them.

Feeding became more stable, however, due to the overcrowding of the CIP, food already reached the second floor in limited quantities, there was not enough for everyone. During the day it was still stuffy in the overcrowded cells. Some security officers, in order to inflict even more suffering on people, purposefully closed the feeders in the doors, which caused the detainees to practically suffocate without air. Small groups of people continued to be released.

«It was really hot. The window in our cell was a little ajar, there was a gap. It is impossible to get to the window to open it yourself (there is a grate), but it was already ajar. Anyway, when we all went to bed, it was very hot, we all undressed to our shorts. One guy had high pressure (he complained about pressure, he said he was taking pills). We didn't call anyone. They told us that if we pressed the call button they would beat that cell. Therefore, we did not press this button.»

“On August 13 there were already three meals. As I later learned from a friend with whom we were traveling in a car, they were higher, on the third or fourth floor. And the food just didn't reach them, they were just handed out bread.”

“The trial was held this way: 5–8 people were called, they were taken to the 2nd floor and after 10–15 minutes all these people returned, as a rule, ‘with administrative arrest’. Moreover, all this was accompanied by beatings in front of the judges right in front of their eyes.”

“And at some point, I was called into the office, where 2 women were sitting. One in the judge's robes, Judge Buynovskaya A., Judge of the Frunzensky District Court. I was told what I am accused of. I explained that there was nothing like that. I told the judge how it happened, said that I was beaten, told that I was detained in another place, but the judge ignored this and said that if I did not admit my guilt, then there could be no concessions. As a result, I was sentenced to 10 days of arrest and sent to another office.”

August 14, 2020

During the night and throughout the day on August 14, detainees were released from the CIP. As in previous days, during the release at night, the security forces beat people. During the day they were released without beatings, just with a warning not to go to protests. The overwhelming majority of people did not get personal belongings, as they were dumped in one room and it was impossible to find them. Many were forced to leave the CIP without phones, apartment keys and means to get home.

00:00 – 07:00

People continued to be released. Before being released, the riot police kicked and beat them with truncheons. The security forces mocked people with dreadlocks, long hair, and tattoos.

"At night, they began to offer to sign an agreement that you would no longer participate in rallies, otherwise you would be prosecuted. In principle, everyone signed, there were no unwilling ones, because there were no chances: those who did not sign were beaten, and they signed anyway. After that, they took us out into the street. So we stood for three hours. Then the riot police arrived and again began to conduct an inspection. They began to examine everyone, demanded to show the buttocks and shoulders, those who had no injuries were laid on the ground and beaten, and those who had long haircuts – they cut their hair right in front of us, in the yard. We were released by 6 people, with the words that, they say, now we beat you half to death, and next time we will kill you."

"One girl refused to sign a paper about non-participation in protests, she said that 'I have the keys there in my bag, I won't go anywhere, because I have nowhere to go and so on. Give me the bag.' One riot policeman then took a truncheon and began to severely beat her."

07:00 – 24:00

The release of detainees continued. The remaining people were put to other cells. The overcrowding of the cells was no longer so great. In the daytime, during the release, the security forces did not beat people. Many were loaded into paddy wagons and taken from the territory of the detention center to the city, where they were released in different districts, away from the detention center. Under the walls of the CIP, the released were met by relatives and friends, as well as volunteers who provided medical and other necessary assistance to those in need.

"An hour before the release, about 13–14 hours, we did not know what it would be. It happened the following way: we were put into cells on the second floor, 5–6 people, as if for the show, in front of someone. Then they put us in the corridor, out of habit we stood facing the wall. A man comes and says: 'Guys, that's it, now you are free. You can keep your hands at your sides, turn around to face me. And I want to apologize to you. In all situations of conflict, chips fly, you turned out to be these chips. My task is simply to come, feed and let you out.'"

"In the courtyard, they put us in paddy wagons which took us to different parts of the city. They were all in balaclavas, of course, who were with us. They asked: 'Are you sitting comfortably, is there enough space?'. Turned on the air conditioner in the car. When they closed the door, they asked: 'Is everything ok?'. When we got out of the paddy wagon, went down the steps, the phrases were like 'all the best!', 'Goodbye!'"

"I was walking, and the song 'Change' was playing from each car. I didn't understand what was going on, and then when I got home, when my friends arrived, and when I went online, I saw that the whole city was marching. Only then we understood why they were all so polite on the last day."

Beatings, injuries in victims of violence

Throughout all the days, August 9–13, 2020, ambulances took beaten and maimed people from the detention center in extremely rare cases, with the permission of the security forces. Despite the obvious injuries and the serious condition of the detainees, medical assistance was not actually provided to them in the isolation ward and on the internal territory, or was provided in rare cases.

It is rather difficult to understand exactly where the people were injured, since they were subjected to violence at all stages — during detention, during transportation, while in the Minsk police department and on the territory of the CIP itself. Even if, after a tough “acceptance”, some of the victims were immediately placed in a cell and no violence was used against them for the remaining days until the release, the condition from the injuries already received was complicated by terrible conditions of detention — in 5-6 times overcrowded stuffy cells and overcrowded cold walking yards, with unsanitary conditions, torture, sleep deprivation, lack of food and drinking water.

“I had a shoulder injury three or four years ago. And one day I had a sharp pain in my shoulder. I did an MRI — which showed a rupture of the tendons and ligaments and a suspicion of a fracture of the cartilaginous bone. Again, they didn't seem to beat me there, but I was lying on this bed, that is, it is made of iron there, these bars, between which the distance is quite large, and it was somehow problematic to lie on it.”

From the amount of evidence described above, it can be seen that people on the territory of the CIP were not provided with timely and high-quality medical care. Akrestina employees provided minimal assistance only in the most critical cases, or did not provide it at all. The victims also say that the security forces at Akrestina made it as difficult as possible for the emergency doctors who came to call for help: they were not allowed to examine everyone who needed help, and they did not allow to take the victims with serious injuries to the hospital. At some points, despite the protests of doctors, the security officers independently selected people who were allowed to get medical assistance or be taken to the hospital:

“Before they let me out of Akrestina, they [the employees of Akrestina] cursed that they could not identify who I was. They told the doctors for a long time that they would not let me out until they knew my last name. But the doctors told them that I was unconscious, and that was impossible.”

According to the testimonies of the victims, even with the emergency doctors, the security forces behaved in a boorish way, insulted them, threatened and prevented them from providing assistance. There were also cases when ambulances were not allowed out of Akrestina for a long time.

Most of the injuries of the victims were due to beatings — broken teeth and jaw injuries, hematomas, abrasions, bruises, sprains, fractures and TBI (traumatic brain injury) of varying severity. Hematomas could make up to 80% of the entire body. No less severe characteristic diagnoses of that period: internal bleeding, bruises of the chest, fractures of the nose, ribs, legs, fingers, severe injuries of the hands due to constricted screeds, sprains of the ankle, elbow and knee joints. Also, when people were hit on the head, the blows often fell on the ears. Because of this, some of the victims testify that they were later diagnosed with “perforation of the eardrum”, and some also note hearing loss:

“The ears hurt for a long time, because they beat on the ears, that is, I partially lost my hearing.”

Some victims say that they were diagnosed with «exhaustion»:

“I was severely emaciated, beaten. I could see that I was barely alive.”

But still, the main injuries were on the lower part of the body:

"I have a very severe hip bruise. After that, I rode a wheelchair for two and a half weeks because I couldn't walk."

"Knees, back, buttocks, thighs, and I also have some fluid in my knee."

Also, numerous injuries were received by the victims during many hours of kneeling:

"Then I was diagnosed with post-traumatic phlebothrombosis of deep veins. This is most likely not only because of the beatings, but also because we were immobilized and not allowed to drink. Blood thickens from lack of water. Plus, this posture, in which you have your knees bent, also exacerbates the situation."

Some of the victims say that after their release, they began to have problems with their immunity — colds, weight loss, general inexplicable fatigue:

"While I was in the CIP, it was clear that the body had mobilized all its resources as much as possible. As soon as I got out of there, on the second day it gave up — my health began to fail. I got sick, my temperature was 38-39 for three days. Went to the doctor. Covid was not found, but they said that my immunity was killed as much as possible. Then the temperature was 35 for a week. I was generally powerless: I didn't want anything, I couldn't, I could only walk sometimes, I had some kind of maximum weakness. During my stay at the CIP, I lost eight kilograms."

On the night of August 11-12, the air temperature dropped to +16°C¹³ and it remained the same during the day. The night from 12 to 13 August was even colder — about +15°C, and during the night of 13 to 14 August the temperature dropped to +13°C. Those detainees who were in the walking yards or in the yards of the CIP were forced to stand outside in light summer clothes without any opportunity to warm up. Also, people were poured with water in the walking yards. Therefore, some of the victims say that after being released from several days to two weeks, they had to treat cold:

"After all, I had a terribly sore throat and a couple of days I had a temperature of 39. I was already afraid that it was coronavirus, so I went to run tests. These were probably the consequences of the concrete floor and the 26 hours spent on it at night and the cold tap water that everyone drank from the same bottle."

Many began to exacerbate chronic diseases of the kidneys (omission, increase), heart, back. *"I used to have pain in my lower back, but now it's even worse, my shoulder blade hurts, and a nerve hurts along my spine."* Many noted exacerbations of joint diseases, as well as other diseases:

"I have vision problems and hydrocephalus — when there is excess fluid in the brain. And it is in sleep mode. And it should not develop, but with a strong blow to the head, I can lose my sight. And the blows flew to the head. And it hurt like an eyeball. By the way, my vision deteriorated after these events."

It is also worth noting that in some district clinics in Minsk, doctors either refused to accept the victims during the protests or did not provide them with proper assistance:

«On Friday I went to my clinic. In the clinic described everything, how it all began, but for some reason, the doctor did not want to listen to me. He tells me — a bruise, there is a small crack, it's okay. But my leg hurts a lot, I can't understand what's wrong with it. And then I went to the BSMP. They took me in, examined me, took pictures and found that I had a broken ankle and a broken phalanx of my finger."

There were cases when doctors in state medical institutions were not able to provide proper assistance. One interviewee says that after he was released, he had wounds on his legs. For medical help, he turned to the clinic at the place of residence. For some time he went for dressings, but the wounds

13. <https://www.timeanddate.com/weather/belarus/minsk/historic?month=8&year=2020>

did not go away and began to fester. The doctor who worked with him advised him to contact a private center:

"She said that in the clinic, she couldn't get the fragments out, she didn't have such tools for me. She advised me to go for an MRI."

Later, in a private medical institution, metal fragments, the origin of which he does not know, and part of a rubber bullet were removed from the victim's leg.

Many victims talk about psychological disorders, such as anxiety — *"the first days in the hospital it was scary that they would come again, take me to the police"*, sleep disturbance — *"and the eye twitches, and there is no sleep"*, as well as *"emotional dissociation, panic attacks, PTSD¹⁴"*, jaw clamps — *"my jaw jammed, I think when there were moments of fear that they would beat you, you clamp it hard, then I had to wear a mouthguard to relax."* Many said that for some time after their release they were afraid to go outside. Some did not feel safe even at home. Some of the victims describe a state of disorientation, most often in a dream or immediately after waking up — it seemed to them that they were still in Akrestina:

"I didn't even go outside. The first two days I looked out the window constantly, like a paranoid, there was some kind of fear that they might come for me."

"At first, I could wake up in the middle of the night, because there is no escape from the consciousness of this stressful situation, even if you are super stress-resistant there. And when I woke up in the middle of the night, I thought I was still there."

In interviews, the victims described cases of people who in a couple of days went completely grey. A case of incipient stuttering has also been described:

"I stuttered for almost two months after Akrestina. I really stuttered a lot. I have never stuttered in my life."

Many victims said that after their release, they began to react more sharply and aggressively to various things:

"I became nervous, I noticed it myself. At work, by that time I had been working for several years, so I had experience in the project. Therefore, I demanded from those who come that the work is done conscientiously and with high quality. At first, I was more restrained, then became sharper, sometimes rude."

Some hematomas, abrasions, and bruises, according to the victims, could pass quite quickly — from several days to a week. Most often, people almost completely recover in two to three weeks. But recovery from more complex injuries that required careful treatment could take anywhere from a few months to a year. Many say that they still feel the effects of injuries received in August.

As for the psychological state, even in later surveys (autumn 2022), some of the victims note that they did not manage to fully recover — they continue to face depression, increased anxiety and periodically have problems with sleep.

Attention! The next four pages contain photos of the described injuries.

¹⁴ Post-traumatic stress disorder.

Photos from cases of victims interviewed by the International Committee to Investigate Torture in Belarus

1 case



2 case



3 case



4 case



5 case



Photo from the report “Belarus: a coordinated policy of torture. Forensic medical examination of 50 cases of torture¹⁵”



Here and below are photos of beaten civilians after protests in August 2020 in Minsk.

15. https://www.legin.by/uploads/20211110_618b9ec2403b2.pdf

Due to the fear of reprisals, not all the victims even agreed to publish anonymous and depersonalized photos of the signs of torture. We publish photos from the report “**Belarus: a coordinated policy of torture**” (authors: International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus, International Council for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture (IRCT) and its Independent Forensic Expert Group (IFEG)). These photos are for illustrative purposes only. The purpose of their publication is to show the nature of the detainees’ injuries after the mass torture in August 2020..



Persons Responsible for Torturing Detainees in the Offenders Isolation Center

"This female 'doctor' comes in and says: 'Condom, what do you want, 'blya'?' He asked for water. The 'doctor' was in a long red dress, she may have been from some celebration or she goes to work like that. She: 'Zhenya, beat the shit out of him' And Zhenya came and started beating this man. One female employee, whom I will remember for the rest of my life, beat me. Then there was a biker guy in the cell, he says, she stood on his head with her feet and with two hands began to beat him between the buttocks on the scrotum."




Victims, as a rule, testify that in the courtyard of the CIP and walking yards, as well as in the corridors, the detainees were beaten mainly by OMON security forces in black uniforms and balaclavas, which makes it difficult to identify these persons from photographs.




Despite the fact that many employees of the CIP were wearing medical masks, some of those who beat and abused the detainees were identified by the victims.



Along with the identified security forces, we consider it necessary to indicate the highest officials responsible for violating the law in the CIP and impunity for criminals.


1. The person holding the post of President of the Republic of Belarus, **Lukashenko Alexander Grigorievich**.
2. Former Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus **Karaev Yuri Khadzhimuratovich** (June 11, 2019 — October 29, 2020).
3. Former Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus **Barsukov Alexander Petrovich** (2017 — 2020).
4. Former head of the Main Department of Internal Affairs of the Minsk City Executive Committee **Kubrakov Ivan Vladimirovich** (since October 29, 2020 Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus).
5. The commander of the OMON GUVB of the Minsk City Executive Committee **Balaba Dmitry Vladimirovich**.
6. Former Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus **Konyuk Alexander Vladimirovich** (2011 — 2020).
7. Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus **Shved Andrey Ivanovich**.
8. Prosecutor of the city of Minsk **Lavrukhin Oleg Vladimirovich**.
9. Prosecutor of the Moskovsky district of Minsk **Shaban Viktor Yaroslavovich**.



During the interviews of the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus, the victims identified the following officials involved in the torture of detainees in the CIP of the Central Internal Affairs Directorate of the Minsk City Executive Committee from August 9 to 14, 2020. The identification of the security officers also took place on social networks, people identified them after posting photos on the Internet. At the same time, citizens indicate that the security forces continue to carry out torture in the detention center after August 2020.



N°	Full name	Description
1	<p>Shapetko Evgeny Andreevich</p> 	<p>Recognized by many interviewees</p> <p>As the head of the CIP, he is responsible for the conditions of detention and other processes in the institution subordinate to him. He allowed mass torture and ill-treatment of detainees on the territory of the institution. Directly gave orders, did not take any action to stop the torture.</p> <p>To this day, he is the head of the CIP and directs the mass torture of political prisoners. Purposefully creates cruel and inhuman conditions of detention for political prisoners.</p> <p><i>"He was exactly there and led the process."</i></p> <p><i>"I saw the chief on August 14, when the detainees were released from the detention center."</i></p> <p><i>"I saw the head of the CIP, a major, he was without a mask. He didn't do anything himself.»</i></p> <p><i>"The head of the CIP was often present in the yard, I don't remember his last name, but I know his face. He was constantly present there during these beatings, it will be possible to make him responsible sooner or later."</i></p>
2	<p>Atroshchenko Yury Mikhailovich</p> 	<p>Identified through social networks</p> <p>He was not identified directly in participation in torture, he escorted the detainees to the cells. With his tacit consent, torture and ill-treatment of the detainees were committed. He saw the beaten and wounded, did not react in any way to violations of the law.</p> <p><i>"This one also brought me to the cell. I don't know his rank. I didn't hear any insults. He was just like a robot."</i></p>
3	<p>Tsibulsky Anatoliy Anatolievich</p> 	<p>Identified by interviewees</p> <p>With his tacit consent, the detainees were tortured. He saw the beaten and wounded, did not react in any way to violations of the law.</p> <p><i>"In the afternoon of August 12 he went into the walking yard together with Vrublevsky. They were without masks and in dark blue uniforms. Stood there for several minutes, examined it and talked about something. At that moment, the yard was several times overcrowded, there were severely beaten people in it, there was a bucket that was used as a toilet, since we were not taken to the restroom. After staying for a couple of minutes and not reacting to the violations in any way, they left."</i></p>

N°	Full name	Description
4	Gasperchik Andrey Mikhailovich 	<p>Recognized by interviewees and through social networks</p> <p>Wasn't directly involved in torture. With his tacit consent, torture and ill-treatment of the detainees were committed. He saw the beaten and wounded, did not react in any way to violations of the law.</p> <p><i>"Looks like the employee who was on duty on the second floor."</i></p> <p><i>"The most adequate, as far as possible. Didn't insult, didn't humiliate. He yelled at the homeless and at those who were not in politics."</i></p> <p><i>"Gasperchik Andrey Mikhailovich, on duty, was in the rank of captain, he called us 'villains'. Very rarely, but it was possible to beg for a walk and smoke (he took me out late in the evening so that the authorities would not see), he gave cigarettes. He swore at homeless people, sometimes beat them."</i></p>
5	Ivanitsky Dmitry Alexandrovich 	<p>Identified through social networks</p> <p>Directly wasn't involved in torture. With his tacit consent, torture and ill-treatment of the detainees were committed. He saw the beaten and wounded, did not react in any way to violations of the law.</p> <p><i>"He did 'corridor' duties — accepted and let people out. It was him who let me out and conducted a search."</i></p> <p><i>"This is an ordinary sergeant. He took me to talks, led me to the cell, etc. I did not notice the humiliation and insults from him."</i></p>
6	Shkursky Konstantin Viktorovich 	<p>Identified by interviewees</p> <p>Directly wasn't involved in torture. With his tacit consent, torture and ill-treatment of the detainees were committed. He saw the beaten and wounded, did not react in any way to violations of the law.</p> <p><i>"Shkursky Konstantin Viktorovich, his face is familiar. On August 14, 2020, I and hundreds of other people were gathered in the main yard to be sent to other places of detention. I saw him there then. I remember the fact that he led this process and tried very hard in front of his superiors, who were also present there."</i></p>

N°	Full name	Description
7	<p>Tishechkin Igor Vladislavovich</p> 	<p>Identified through social networks</p> <p>He took an active part in the torture and ill-treatment of detainees, took the initiative himself, carried favor with his superiors.</p> <p><i>"He didn't give a deaf-mute woman a hearing aid. He spoke obscenely, humiliated everyone. He took money from personal belongings to pay for food."</i></p> <p>After August 2020</p> <p><i>"He insulted, beat, took mattresses from those who had them, threatened to pour bleach. Transferred homeless people infected with head lice (and/or linen lice) to overcrowded cells with political detainees. He refused to lower the bunk (lowered from the outside) to me when I was in the punishment cell. I had to sleep with the temperature on the floor."</i></p>
8	<p>Tukach/Koleda Svetlana Viktorovna</p> 	<p>Recognized by interviewees</p> <p>Actively promoted the use of torture, threatened the victims, did not provide medical assistance to sick and injured detainees.</p> <p><i>"She was definitely there. As I remember, as the head of the medical department of the TDF or CIP. She came up and threatened the person who was being beaten next to me."</i></p> <p><i>"The woman was definitely during the registration, helping with the inspection. Threatened, was carrying a truncheon. I don't know if she beat someone or not."</i></p>

N°	Full name	Description
9	<p data-bbox="225 271 496 333">Vrublevsky Evgeny Alekseevich</p> 	<p data-bbox="566 271 1225 297">Recognized by interviewees and through social networks</p> <p data-bbox="566 324 1458 439">One of the most brutal employees of the CIP. Many respondents testify to the purposeful beatings of detainees by him, they characterize him as a sadist who beats for pleasure. He tried very hard to curry favor with his superiors and other security forces.</p> <p data-bbox="566 465 1458 521">To this day, without hiding, he actively tortures political prisoners and is proud of his actions.</p> <p data-bbox="643 548 1458 602"><i>"We were on our knees, hands behind our heads and this Zhenya was constantly beating us."</i></p> <p data-bbox="643 629 1458 790"><i>"... the employees said: 'Zhenya, don't be fierce, why the fuck are you doing this at all.' The Okrestina employees behaved adequately when the riot police left the CIP. They understood that we are people and did nothing with us. But while there was riot police, it was f*** (horror). Zhenya personally beat people, kicked me and beat me with a truncheon, saying: 'How do you throw Molotov cocktails?'. It was definitely him."</i></p> <p data-bbox="643 817 1458 871"><i>"Beat everyone he could.... I remember exactly that he was there and we discussed among ourselves: 'If only we didn't run into this eyebrow-shaped one.'"</i></p> <p data-bbox="643 898 1458 952"><i>"... he makes me undress, like asking me to strip down to my underpants, and he starts beating me on my naked body."</i></p> <p data-bbox="643 978 1458 1249"><i>"Humiliated, shouted, intimidated. He was distinguished by special zeal, and he also called some people in black, who took me out of the cell and beat me near the doors in the corridor, after which they forced me to wipe the blood from the floor with my own T-shirt. After I was beaten, Vrublevsky opened the cell and poured a bucket of water on me and those sitting next to me, saying that next time it would be two buckets of shit. When they released me from the detention center on the 14th, he personally took me to the walking yard and kept me there until everyone left, threatening that they would take me to the pre-trial detention center because I refused to sign repentance, that I would not do it again and I promise not to go anywhere else to participate».</i></p> <p data-bbox="643 1276 1458 1330"><i>"He screamed a lot, and was aggressive. Didn't open the feeding window for us when the girls said they didn't have enough air. He called us bitches.»</i></p> <p data-bbox="643 1357 1458 1440"><i>"Behaved very aggressively. This Eugene accompanied us from the cell, yelled obscenities at everyone and beat with a truncheon. If someone was not standing, buried in the wall, trying to turn his head.</i></p> <p data-bbox="643 1467 1458 1520"><i>"I was on the 2nd and 3rd floors. He humiliated, insulted, beat people we heard from the cell. It gave him great pleasure. He also hated women, called useless insects.</i></p> <p data-bbox="566 1547 767 1574">After August 2020</p> <p data-bbox="643 1601 1458 1738"><i>"He forced me to stand up at night [torture by sleep deprivation]. He was very rude to everyone, very rude. He was annoyed that we laugh sometimes. But we wanted to somehow, so as not to go crazy from all this — we played somehow, we were distracted. He was annoyed that we were laughing, he then began to loudly pound on the door.</i></p> <p data-bbox="643 1765 1458 1872"><i>"And he said that since you ask such questions [demanding mattresses and sleeping places], Mr. Proper would visit you [they pour chlorine liquid from a bucket onto the floor of the cell]. He says: 'I give you free advice, clean it up as quickly as possible.' As far as I know, it was a rather well-known employee Evgeny Vrublevsky.</i></p>

N°	Full name	Description
10	<p>Gutorova/Lyakh Evgenia Mikhailovna</p> 	<p>Recognized by interviewees and through social networks</p> <p>Directly involved in the facts of ill-treatment of detainees. She personally beat, insulted and threatened the detainees. Refused requests for medical assistance.</p> <p>To this day, she tortures political prisoners.</p> <p><i>"She did not respond to requests for water. From above, from the 2nd floor, like animals, they threw to 123 people into the walking yard for us 3 times only 6 liters of water in 12 hours. She and another employee beat the girls on the 2nd floor. The girls had a cell for 4 people, in which there were more than 40 people. The beatings took place on August 10."</i></p> <p><i>"Very similar to the woman who refused to give a man with diabetes a doctor or an injection of insulin, telling him: "You will die here."</i></p> <p><i>"The guard, who forced me to undress and squat during the detention (in front of the video camera), tore the insoles out of my sneakers, pushed me in the back. Then, on the second floor in front of the camera, she hit me with her knee in the stomach once. And she repeated it on the day of my judgment on August 13 in the morning."</i></p> <p>After August 2020</p> <p><i>"She tried to curry favor with her superiors. When there was her shift, it was impossible even to lie on the floor. If something was not done the way she wanted, she called and complained. But at the same time, she liked to say that she does nothing wrong and "allows" so much."</i></p> <p><i>"One of the vilest employees. She insulted me, took everything from the cell that she did not like (for example, a device with which it was possible to close the window – accordingly, once we were left with the window open during the cold season). She held the daytime examinations with particular pleasure, scattered things/medicines, tore, broke things and stomped on them. She was in the rank of foreman."</i></p>
11	<p>Sokolovsky Ivan Yurievich</p> 	<p>Identified by interviewees</p> <p>He was not directly involved in the torture, but he refused to hospitalize beaten and wounded people. With his tacit consent, torture was used. He saw the beaten and wounded, did not react in any way to violations of the law.</p> <p><i>"Sokolovsky, a rather stout man. Because of him, I could not leave Akrestina in an ambulance. Ambulances drove into the territory of the CIP, examined the detainees, and took away the heaviest ones. I was taken to the ambulance, the doctors performed standard procedures to establish my condition. Three or four more detainees were taken into the car with us. There was definitely a girl, we were almost about to leave, but Sokolovsky did not like it. He began to scream, practically pulling everyone out of the car by the collar, with the words "That's it, the freebie is over!". Then he shouted again that there were no more ambulances on the territory. If I don't confuse anything, the situation was on 08/12/20, somewhere about 10:00–13:00. Closer to dinner. It was he who was the reason that I was at the CIP for a day and a half with a concussion and a perforation of the eardrum, in spite of getting medical help on time."</i></p>

N°	Full name	Description
12	Esmantovich Sergey Nikolaevich 	Identified through social networks <p>He was not identified what concerns the events of August 9–14, 2020, however, according to the testimonies of the victims, he uses torture and ill-treatment of detainees in the detention center to this day.</p> <p><i>"This, if I am not mistaken, is a major. Insulted, humiliated. He yelled obscenities, he especially hated women serving arrest on political grounds."</i></p> <p><i>"He was in the rank of major, one of the duty officers. He beat a man because he answered a female employee 'the wrong way'. The blow was with a truncheon on the back. In general, he talks obscenities, fills cells with 20 people and puts the homeless [in cells with political]."</i></p>
13	Kulagin Eduard Gennadievich 	Identified through social networks <p>Concerning the events of August 9–14, 2020, he was not identified with certainty, however, according to the testimonies of the victims, he uses torture and ill-treatment of detainees in the detention center to this day.</p> <p><i>"I mostly saw it at evening inspections, with a mallet (beds were tapped with a mallet). He made unfunny jokes about the fact that specifically we, political people, have no rights, and insulted me."</i></p>

In order to bring to justice the persons involved in torture in the detention center on Akrestina, the process of identifying them continues.

If you know or recognize any of the security forces in the published photos¹⁶ please contact the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus (website <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/ru/>, e-mail: contact@torturesbelarus2020.org, Telegram: @ ICTB2020_contact). We guarantee maximum security in communication.

16. <https://telegra.ph/Opoznanie-Sotrudniki-CIP-Okrestina-02-02>

Legal qualification of actions of law enforcement officers of Belarus

The above numerous testimonies show that on August 9-14, 2020, employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the territory of the Center for Isolation of Offenders of the Main Internal Affairs Directorate of the Minsk City Executive Committee in Minsk carried out massive large-scale acts of violence, torture and cruelty, expressed as follows.

Citizens captured on the streets of Minsk and taken to the CIP were subjected to organized beatings by passing through a line of officers armed with truncheons (the so-called "corridors"). Then, in the courtyard of the CIP, the detainees were lined up along the wall and in a static position, on their knees with their hands up, sometimes completely naked, under threat or with violence, were kept for long hours, also experiencing excruciating suffering and pain. For the slightest disobedience, timid protest and simple demand for respect of their rights, they received beatings, insults, threats of rape, etc.

Detained women were subjected to physical violence, cynical insults, threats of rape, including in a perverted form; searches of women were humiliating and sometimes carried out in the presence of men.

The keeping of hundreds of people in the so-called walking yards was distinguished by the particular cruelty. For 12-15 hours, and sometimes up to two days, people, mostly beaten, often half-naked, without food and water, without going to the toilet, on cold nights were kept in concrete boxes in the open air, due to crowding without being able to neither sit nor lie down.

The keeping of the detainees in monstrously overcrowded cells was the same, where they were forced to sleep on the floor, tables, bedside tables, near the toilet. Mattresses, bedding, toilet paper, and feminine hygiene items required by law were not given. Due to stuffiness and high humidity, the detainees often lost consciousness. Unsanitary conditions, stench, and cockroaches reigned in the cells. For days, the detainees were not given food, any demands for respect for their rights were suppressed either by force, or water or an aqueous solution of chlorine was poured into the cell, which made the conditions even more unbearable. Medical assistance was often not provided, medicines were not given.

Most of the interviewed citizens also noted that they either saw themselves or heard from the cells or walking yards how mass beatings of citizens brought from the streets of the city were carried out at night in the courtyard of the CIP.

Under such circumstances, the actions of the security forces of the OMON and the CIP of the Main Internal Affairs Directorate of the Minsk City Executive Committee in relation to the detained people, reflected in this report, are criminal both under domestic and international law.

These actions are fully covered by the offense under Art. 128 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (crimes against the security of mankind), according to which unlawful detention, torture or acts of cruelty committed in connection with the political opinions of the civilian population are punishable by imprisonment for a term of seven to twenty-five years, or life imprisonment, or the death penalty.

From the point of view of international criminal law, the acts of violence described are qualified under subparagraphs e), f) and k) of paragraph 1 of article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as crimes against humanity in the form of imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty, in violation of fundamental norms of international law, as well as in the form of torture and other inhuman acts of a similar nature, consisting in the intentional infliction of severe suffering or serious bodily harm or serious damage to mental or physical health.

It is also very important that, taking into account the fact that the crime under Article 128 of the Criminal Code is one of the most dangerous crimes against the peace and security of mankind, Art. 85 of the

Criminal Code establishes that persons guilty of committing this crime are not subject to exemption from criminal liability or punishment due to the expiration of the statute of limitations.

However, the implementation of the criminal responsibility of the perpetrators within the framework of the political regime existing in Belarus is currently practically impossible, because it is unlikely that it will be carried out by the same persons who are guilty of these crimes.

It is practically impossible to bring the perpetrators to the International Criminal Court — the Republic of Belarus is not a party to the Rome Statute.

The most promising in this sense from a practical point of view is the use of the mechanism of universal jurisdiction.

According to available information, one criminal trial under universal jurisdiction over the events in Belarus in 2020 has been launched in Lithuania¹⁷.

17. <https://www.prokuraturos.lt/lt/pre-trial-investigation-launched-into-possible-torture-of-a-person-in-a-foreign-state/7240>