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## **Abbreviations**

SIZO — pre-trial detention center

TDF — Temporary Detention Facility

OIC — Offenders' Isolation Center

RUVD — District Department of Internal Affairs

ROVD — District Office of Internal Affairs

ICC — International Criminal Court

OMON — special police squad

CC — Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus

m/u — military unit

Avtozak — vehicle for transporting detainees/prisoners

CAO — Code of Administrative Offenses of the Republic of Belarus

## SUMMARY AND METHODOLOGY

This document is yet another documentary evidence of crimes against humanity committed by the regime after the presidential elections in Belarus in August 2020. The International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus, in fulfillment of its mission to identify all cases of torture and ill-treatment, is conducting a public inquiry into the events at the Sovetskoye RUVD in Minsk from 9 to 13 August 2020.

This inquiry is the second investigation into cases of mass torture and ill-treatment in the district departments of internal affairs of the city of Minsk after the presidential elections in Belarus in 2020. The Committee's experts have previously analyzed the events at the Frunzenski RUVD in Minsk<sup>1</sup>, where, along with the Akrestsina Offenders' Isolation Centre and other police departments, detainees were kept on 9-13 August 2020.

On 9-13 August 2020, mass arrests took place in Minsk: the police detained both participants in protests against the fraudulent presidential election and random passers-by. Passers-by were forced to unlock their phones, and their personal belongings were checked. Armed security forces stopped cars and carried out checks, smashing cars and breaking windows with batons, without any sign of resistance from drivers or passengers. They

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<sup>1</sup> <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/ru/belarus-prestuplen%D0%B8e-prot%D0%B8v-chelovechnost%D0%B8/>

arrested people for following independent media and Telegram channels, having photos from protests in their phones, possessing protest symbols, or tourist and sports equipment in their cars.

The vast majority of arrests were accompanied by severe beatings, insults, and threats of violence. Stun guns and pepper spray were also used.

Those arrested in the streets of the city were taken to the district internal affairs departments (RUVDs) in Minsk. Sovetskoye RUVD<sup>2</sup>, located at per. Yakuba Kolasa, 3, became one of the main places of detention and torture before people were sent to detention facilities (OIC and TDF at Akrestsina, TDF in Zhodino, MLC in Slutsk, etc.).

Sovetskoye RUVD mostly held the people who had been arrested in the center of Minsk: near "Riga" mall on Surganov Street, "Zhuravinka" restaurant, on Independence Avenue, Niamiha Street, Kozlova Street, etc.

In the period from 9 to 13 August, about 400-600 persons were held in custody on the territory and in the premises of the Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk (interviewees give the number of 90-100 people during their stay there)<sup>3</sup>. There were foreign nationals among the detainees. In particular, an Israeli citizen conducted his own investigation and presented his statement to the public about his time there<sup>4</sup>.

This paper provides a chronological account of what happened on the territory of the Sovetskoye RUVD, based on interviews with the victims.

The experts of the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus carefully analyzed **52 individual interviews** (568 pages of transcribed text) with the people<sup>5</sup>, who were arrested in the city streets and taken to the Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk. They also carefully reviewed **the photos, medical and other documents** (137 pages) provided by the interviewees.

The entire time the detainees stayed in the police department they were subjected to cruel beatings, torture, and inhumane treatment. The beaten, wounded and suffering people were not offered any medical assistance, there were no hygiene products, while access to toilet and drinking water was limited. COVID-19 sanitary and hygienic measures and restrictions were not observed by the Sovetskoye RUVD during the pandemic, posing a

<sup>2</sup> <https://minsk.mvd.gov.by/ru/page/sovetskoe-ruvd>

<sup>3</sup> It is difficult to identify the exact number of detainees, as people were transported to detention facilities (OIC and TDF in Akrestsina, TDF in Zhodzina, etc.) from time to time, while new detainees were constantly brought in.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fruman.info/>

<sup>5</sup> From the databases of the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus <https://torturesbelarus2020.org> and the Human Rights Center Viasna <https://spring96.org/ru>.

serious threat to the life and health of the detainees.

According to interviewees, the detention conditions were so terrible and unbearable, and the treatment of detainees so cruel and inhuman, that some compared the police station to a Nazi concentration camp. Heart-rending screams, pleas for help, and the weeping of tormented people were heard from behind the fence of the police department those days. Several audio<sup>6</sup> and video<sup>7</sup> recordings appeared on the Internet showing the abuse of detainees<sup>8</sup> in Sovetskoye RUVD.

Many victims reported general overexcitement and dilated pupils of the law enforcement officers. Some interviewees believe that they may have taken drugs.

As a rule, the detainees spent about 24 hours in the RUVD. The police drew up administrative offence reports against them. According to the interviewees, the officers forged absolutely all papers.

From the RUVD, the detainees were taken to the Offenders' Isolation Center or Temporary Detention Facility in Akrestsina, as well as other detention centers.

Section "[Consequences: Injuries and Traumas of Detainees](#)" describes the medical consequences of being held in Sovetskoye RUVD. It is based on medical records and testimonies of the victims of violence and abuse by the RUVD officers.

Section "[Individuals Responsible for Torturing Detainees at the Sovetskoye RUVD in Minsk](#)" reviews information from databases of partner organizations and initiatives, open sources, social media, Telegram channels, and victims' statements.

Section "[Legal Assessment of Actions of Law Enforcement Officers of Belarus](#)" analyzes the actions of employees of the Sovetskoye police department (RUVD) of Minsk in accordance with national legislation and standards of the international law.

We do not disclose any personal data in order to protect the safety of our sources and interviewees.

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6 Screams and cries of detainees on the territory of the Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk on August 12, 2020 [https://twitter.com/msvetov/status/1293631412021743616?t=x9YFnr3WzYyYdD\\_ED5JS5Q&s=19](https://twitter.com/msvetov/status/1293631412021743616?t=x9YFnr3WzYyYdD_ED5JS5Q&s=19)

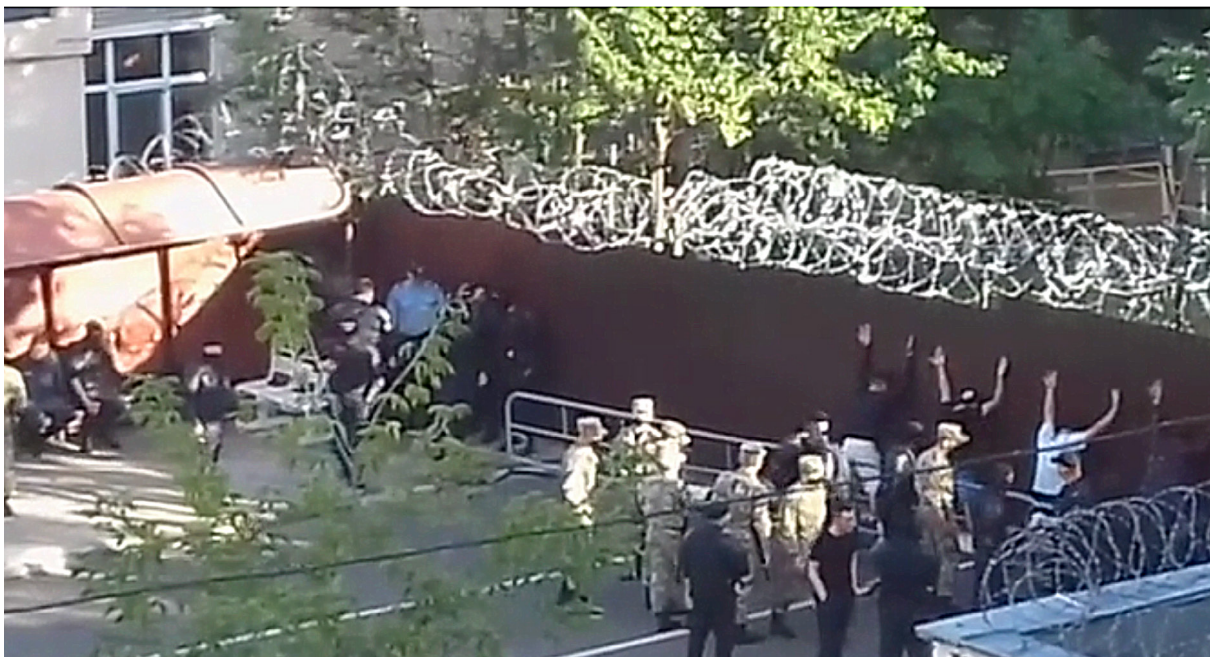
7 Video of detainees with their hands raised in the Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk on August 10, 2020 [https://t.me/nexta\\_live/5990](https://t.me/nexta_live/5990)

8 <https://www.fruman.info/%D0%90%D1%80%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82/16-%D1%87%D0%B0%D1%81%D0%BE%D0%B2-%D0%B2-%D0%A0%D0%A3%D0%92%D0%94>

## TIMELINE OF TORTURE: AUGUST 10 – 13, 2020

The first detainees were brought to the Sovetskoye RUVD on the evening of 9 August. Many of them were severely beaten during their arrest.

Initially, people were guarded by the officers of the police department and cadets of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, then, further into the night, the OMON police arrived at the RUVD.



Inner courtyard of the Sovetskoye RUVD in Minsk. Photo @belamova Telegram channel

**August 10, 2020**

**00:00 - 04:00**

At that time, the main control functions in the RUVD were taken over by the OMON, which treated the detainees with incredible cruelty. The RUVD employees dealt with recording personal data and taking inventory of the detainees' property. Interviewees point out the participation of young officers (most likely, cadets from the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs) in guarding the detainees.

When getting off the paddy wagons people were forced to run through a 'corridor' formed by police officers who beat them with batons on their arms, legs, and all over their bodies. Then they were placed in the courtyard near the walls of the building (garage).

The detainees were kept in unnatural and painful stress positions, with their legs spread and arms raised, the backs of their hands pressed against the wall. They were forced to stand like that throughout the night and into the middle of the next day.



*"In the end they brought me to the Sovetskoye RUVD. At first, we had to run through the infamous 'stream'. We were called one by one from the courtyard to the RUVD building, where they made a list of valuables and recorded us on camera, from different angles. At first, if we didn't have our legs wide apart or if we took our hands off the fence, they would come up to us and beat us and yell at us."*

Interviewees testify that by midnight there were about 100 people standing by the wall, many of them women. They were taken to the toilet very rarely. Water was given reluctantly and insufficiently (4 liters for 100 people). It was not even enough for each detainee to take a sip. Everyone had to drink from the same bowl. In the midst of COVID-19, this was a threat to health and even life.



*"The guys were beaten if someone did not obey. And they kept bringing more and more people. When we were taken to the building to do an inventory of our things, several women were brought in ... One girl was almost strangled when they tried to remove the laces from her hood. ... There were about 80-90 of us near the wall, including about 20 women."*





*"In the Sovetskoye RUVD, everyone was lined up against the wall with outstretched arms and spread legs. At first, they walked around and checked that everyone kept their hands up and feet wide apart. Otherwise, they pushed them apart with a baton or foot. There were so many people that all the walls in the courtyard were crowded with people.*

The OMON police rioted throughout the night. Detainees could be heavily beaten because of what officers perceived to be unusual appearance, affiliation with a particular social group, a request for a lawyer, reluctance to provide information, or requests that police comply with the law.



*"When one middle-aged guy got undressed, they saw his underpants with the American flag. He was severely beaten for this. I had a beard then, and they thought I was an Orthodox priest. That's why I didn't get hit hard at first. And then they noticed that I had nail polish on my little and ring fingers, and said: "Ah, so he is not a priest! He's a faggot! So, beat him really hard. Then they stripped me completely and beat me on the legs."*



*"After that they took us off. They twisted our arms and put us against the wall, forcing us to lean on the back of our hands. Many people could not stand like that for a long time, and when they tried to move their hands, they were hit on the back and on the legs with a club. I asked why I was arrested, what I had done, I began to demand a lawyer. After that they said: "Oh, you want a lawyer!" and used a club on me from head to toe. Then I told them again that I would not say anything without a lawyer and they would not get away with it. They got very mad and did the same thing only twice as long. After that, I realized I couldn't take it a third time, so I told them my name, where I worked, and so on. I was arrested at 2 a.m. and we stood in this position until 3 p.m."*

**04:00 - 08:00**



*"... They walked around with machine guns. It felt like I was in a concentration camp. They twitched the shutters of their machine guns and threatened to shoot everyone if at least someone ran."*

*(From the statement of a detainee)*



- 1 — Опись имущества – Property inventory taken
- 2 — Ночь у забора – A night near the fence
- 3 — Место избиения по прибытии – People beaten upon arrival

Site plan of the territory of the Sovetskoye RUVD, August 2020. Photo <https://www.fruman.info>

All the detainees, without exception, were put in a stress position leaning against the wall. Any attempt to change it was followed by severe beatings. During the entire night, the detainees were taken to the building to do an inventory of their belongings and registration of personal data. They were taken to the toilet very rarely; some interviewees report not being taken to toilet at all.



*“They didn’t let me go to the toilet all night, then, at 9-10 am, when the cadets arrived, they began to take people to the toilet and gave us water, 2 or 3 bottles for a hundred people.”*



*“We were greeted with shouts. You can’t see anything, because you have to keep your head down and move quickly. They put you against the wall and tell you put your hands up. They kick everyone’s legs so that they are wider apart. You stand with your head towards the wall, put your hands up and legs pretty wide apart — they call this position a stretching posture.”*



*“They took me to the courtyard of the Sovetskoye RUVD, where people were standing along the entire fence with their hands up*

*on the fence. They took me out and put me next to them, without explaining anything. I think there were around 50-60 men, and some women, too. So I got there (at this wall) at about 4:30, and around five o'clock (already in the evening) they started transporting us out to Zhodzina (also without explaining what, where, why, and how)."*

## 08:00 - 12:00



*"So, we stood like that until the morning ... And it was scorching hot, +30, and people were already starting to faint."*

*(From the statement of a detainee)*

People continued to stand outside along the wall. Some fainted. As a medical aid, they were given a sniff of ammonia and again returned to the wall. The water they gave was barely enough to take a sip (4 liters per 100 people).



*"One guy who stood near us had something wrong with his ribs, possibly broken during the arrest, and he started to faint... After a while they took him away, but they didn't help him walk, they just dragged him along the ground."*

## 12:00 - 16:00

Closer to 16:00 paddy wagons and OMON police arrived and started beating people again. The detainees' hands were firmly tied behind their backs with construction ties, which made their hands turn numb and blue after 10-15 minutes. People began to be put into paddy wagons.



*"After that, by two or four o'clock, probably, a paddy wagon arrived, and they began to load us into it. They tied our hands behind our back with construction ties. They tied me up so strong that I couldn't feel my hands for 3 hours after I got untied. I had no feeling at all in my arms for three hours. As for my thumbs, I couldn't feel them for probably a month."*



*"The OMON police came again. As I understand it, they had a good night's sleep and came to beat us again."*



*"A paddy wagon arrived, the OMON police came out. Head down, the ties were tied very hard, it hurt, and you stop feeling your fingers"*

*almost immediately. They threw all the people on the paddy wagon floor. Two young guys from the internal troops and an OMON officer who threw people into paddy wagons kept yelling. He was shouting something about the death penalty, "terrorists..."*



*"...The guys were put into the vehicles. They were beaten and pushed there. They were moved around very quickly, brutally, and had to run from place to place."*

## 16:00 - 20:00

More and more people arrested on the city streets were brought to Sovetskoye RUVD. Upon arrival, they were taken through a hard "corridor" of officers, who beat them with batons. Then they were forced to stand facing the fence of brown corrugated board. If someone changed his position, he was beaten, including on the head.



*"There were about 50 of us, we stood along the wall. There was this guy, he hit people on the head from behind, if he didn't like the way we were standing. They were standing there for a very long time."*



*"Any attempt to raise the head was followed by a blow from an OMON or police officer."*

## 20:00 - 24:00



*"That is, you get on your feet and see officers in front of you, maybe 15 on one side, and 15 on the other side. And you get into this kind of a "corridor", and everyone yells: "Go, go, kill'em!", waving batons, that is, they were ready to meet us there. So, you run, and you get hit with batons from everywhere. Your task is to quickly run through this corridor."*

*(From the statement of a detainee)*

They kept bringing more and more arrested people. Many of them were severely beaten upon arrival at the RUVD. Everyone was put near the wall, covered with barbed wire at the bottom, and people had to bend down and stand in such an uncomfortable position. The back went numb in 10-15 minutes. From time to time, officers approached the detainees and beat them for "wrong positions". They took people in the office to sign the forged reports.



*"...There was barbed wire at the bottom of the fence. We were told to face the fence, hands behind our backs, bend over keeping the head lower than the back and stand like that.*

*So, we stood like that until the middle of the night. They walked around and said: "So, you, revolutionaries, f\*ckers! What was it you wanted? What was it you needed? You will stand like this until you get on the barb [of barbed wire]."*



*"They brought me to the Sovetskoye RUVD. All this time my hands were tied, we were taken out into the yard, and many were beaten. They zip tied my hands very strongly, my hand still does not work the way it should. They called us one by one and threatened us into signing the reports. Those who refused were beaten. Those who wanted to keep it in the legal field and spoke about their rights were beaten very hard."*



*"We were brought to the Sovetskoye RUVD around 9 pm. About 70 people were standing along the fence. There were people who were arrested on August 9 at 3 pm. More than 24 hours ago. We stood for a long time. They walked around, threatened and beat us, sometimes just for a question."*



*"They brought people arrested at Riga mall, and these people had the toughest time. How they were moaning, poor things... They were beaten very hard."*



*"While we were standing at the fence, at night they brought more guys from Surganova Street, from "Riga", they were beaten very badly. They were placed separately around the corner to the fence."*



*"The most difficult thing was not what happened during the beating, but what happened in the RUVD, because for 17 hours we stood in various terribly uncomfortable positions – head down and hands on the fence. If you remove your hand or try straighten up, then a guy would come up to you, apparently it was their boss, and beat you with a baton, on the legs, or on the back."*

**August 11, 2020**



*"There were a lot of people who were not just beaten, but maimed. They were dragged along the ground, by the hands, like dead bodies. They were all covered in blood. They dragged them aside, poured water over them and beat them again. The screams were terrible!"*

*(From the statement of a detainee)*



Inner courtyard of the Sovetskoye RUVD in Minsk. August 10-11, 2020. Photo: <https://www.fruman.info>

The detainees reported that while in RUVD courtyard they could hear explosions and gunfire near the "Riga" mall, located in the neighborhood. It was one of the centers of protests on the night of August 10-11.



*"Sixty-two people were placed near the fence: you put your head against the fence at the level of your belly, your hands either on your head, or above your head with your palms out, feet shoulder-width apart. I've only seen serious criminals arrested like this in crime newsreels. Moreover, there is barbed wire stretched along the ground, between the fence and yourself."*

## 00:00 - 04:00

Upon delivery to the police department, everyone had to run through a "corridor" of officers with batons. Some people had already been heavily beaten before arrival. Everyone was placed near the wall in uncomfortable positions. If anyone's hands got stiff or people moved to relieve themselves in some way, they were beaten with clubs. Some of the interviewees testify that even the Head of the Sovetskoye RUVD, Sergei Kalinnik, took part in the beating.

At night, people were taken from the courtyard to interrogation rooms, where they were also beaten and strangled with plastic bags.



*"From time time, they would take you to the office. They turn on the camera and say: "So, you, bitch, wanted to burn down the OMON?". You say, "No." Then they turn the camera off, and start beating you. Then they repeat the question, turn the camera on again, and you then answer: "Yes, I was there, I wanted to burn it down, I wanted this ..."*



*"One could hear the OMON officers talking somewhere nearby, laughing at the fact that "they caught a dork and put a plastic bag on his head." That is, they had fun in the next room, putting a bag on someone's head, watching a person suffocate."*



*"Somewhere around 2 or closer to 1 am, they brought the guys who were arrested at night either near Riga mall, or somewhere in the neighborhood, Bangalore Square. The officers started beating them. We heard them being beaten very hard in the courtyard."*

Interviewees report unjustifiably cruel treatment and torture by OMON officers. During interrogations, the officers beat out the information they needed.



*"We were beaten during the interrogation. They put me on the floor, and broke my finger there. They pressed it with a handcuff and stepped on it. When I was lying on the floor, I was hit in the head with a baton, and after they broke my finger, my head began to swell to such an extent that I could see it with peripheral vision.*

*Then blood started coming out of my ear, and they said: "That's it! That's enough for him, bring on the next one." They took me out and put me back at the wall. My rib was also broken."*



*"We were arrested at 1 am and until 10 in the morning, that is, all night, everyone was standing near the fence with their hands up. And again, if someone's hands got numb, or they moved an arm or a leg a little, they got beaten with batons. A woman fainted, they poured water from a bottle on her, and pushed her like this with a foot: "Get up!" They beat everyone, very hard. I have seen enough of this horror. 4 am, very cold. A woman asked for water, and they brought a bucket of water, poured it over and everyone just stood there shaking and trembling.*

*They beat us constantly, very hard. Until they brought us into a cell in the RUVD. We were there, they brought us at 1 o'clock and beat us constantly until about 10 in the morning. I felt as I was about to throw up there near this wall. They said I was faking it."*



*"Somewhere after midnight, closer to 2-3 am, we were still standing in a stretch position. When someone lowered their arms or moved their legs, they beat them. Those who wanted to show off their toughness just came up and beat for no reason, just like that. Around 2-3 o'clock, the OMON officers brought more people, as they said, from Surganova street. "They stood around the corner, there were a lot of people who were not just beaten, but maimed. They were dragged along the ground, by the hands, like dead bodies. They were covered in blood. Officers dragged them aside, poured water over them, and beat them again. The screaming was terrible!"*



*"When they started bringing the guys in at night, apparently from where the events took place, they were beaten very, very hard. One could hear that..."*

The interviewees said that the Head of the Sovetskoye RUVD, Sergei Kalinnik, personally beat the detainees, gave orders to his subordinates about especially cruel treatment of some people (denial of access to drinking water, and toilet).



*"...Near me was Anton [name changed], who had previously been beaten up by the head of the RUVD. The Head of the RUVD came in and told all the officers that they should not give him water and or let him go to the toilet. That he is punished like that. We were given water three times during the entire time there. 1.5-liter bottle of water, one sip each, and I missed it one time, to give the people in the end of the line a chance for a sip."*



## 04:00 - 08:00

By the morning, beaten people literally fell down on the ground due to fatigue and beatings. When they lowered their arms or tried to bring their feet closer, they were beaten. The detainees had to keep their feet as wide apart as possible. At night people were not given water. People fainted and suffered from long time in excruciating positions and fell to their knees, but the officers did not care about it.



*"I also remember, there was this guy, when we were told to squat, he could not do that, because he was punched in the groin."*

## 08:00 - 16:00

People of non-standard appearance were treated with aggression, they were tortured harder, insulted, and threatened with violence.



*"... and I have long hair, and a beard. Especially since they took my hair band, and my hair was all loose. I also had some kind of steel toe boots. They said: "Oh, this is for us. All these assholes, bring all of them to us. We'll take care of them here now. You, assholes, are going to wish you had never been born."*

*And then they started making jokes: "How many people crapped themselves on the previous trip," "Now you're done, you're screwed."*

In the morning, at about 9 o'clock, they began to prepare people for departure from the RUVD. All detainees had their hands zip-tied. The zip ties were very tight; many interviewees speak of hand injuries precisely after being tied with zip ties and staying in them for so long.



*"They put on the ties again and tightened them tightly. They put us on our knees, head down, and that's how they stuffed about 30 people [into the paddy wagon]. They beat us with batons and walked on us, our hands were swollen, and my shoulder joint still does not function well. I almost lost my hand, because they tied my hands with zip ties and didn't take them off for a long time (they took them off only in Zhodzina)."*

Closer to 12 o'clock paddy wagons began to arrive and the detainees were loaded into them for transportation to other places of detention. At the same

time, the officers did not stop beating and humiliating people even in paddy wagons.



*"In the paddy wagon, when we were still standing on the territory of the RUVD, everyone's hands were tightly tied with zip ties, the people were forced to kneel with their heads on the floor.*

*And then, as soon as everyone was inside, they began to beat us with truncheons. An officer just walked around and hit people.*

*They beat off my leg, thigh, buttock and my right shin. They walked on our backs. All this was accompanied by: "What changes did you want? Who else wants changes here? You shouldn't have come out. We're going to show you some changes here."*



*"I can see with my side-eye that a paddy wagon has arrived, men in black get off and tell us loudly: 'We've come to kill you! We have come specifically for you. We'll be driving for a long time, so you are lucky if you get there.'" Some commander said that he would take all the hairy and tattooed guys, to educate them."*



*"They didn't just throw us into the paddy wagon, but also put a plastic tie on my arms behind my back. In a bent position, they threw us on the steps, and 2 or 3 people beat us with all their might. I've never felt so beaten up.*

*They punched us in the legs and buttocks. Some managed to bend their legs higher, or managed to run inside, but still got hit. But they twisted your arms behind your back so that you could not lift your legs high enough, and they beat you. They loaded everyone into a paddy wagon and began to carry out ideological work. They beat us all up..."*

## 16:00 - 20:00

At the RUVD, the beating continued. Those arriving were greeted with batons and kicks, and immediately put against the wall in a stretching position. No medical assistance was provided to the detainees.



*"They brought me to the Sovetskoye RUVD at about 19:30. They took me out of the paddy wagon in handcuffs and immediately started hitting me with truncheons and kicking me."*



*"I was already in such a state then that the officers themselves were surprised — I was bleeding everywhere, the whole body was blue, my head was bleeding, too. A request for medical assistance received a rude response, either verbal or physical.*

At the hospital they X-rayed my head and they also sewed my torn ear back on. I have all the medical papers. It says there: moderately severe traumatic brain injury, laceration of the auricle, internal hematomas, and contusions.



*"They put us near the wall, we had to stand by the wall, hands up, if you clench your fingers a little, you get hit with a baton. You keep standing, with your arms straight, if they think your legs are not spread wide enough, you get a kick in the shin on the inside. Two weeks ago, everything was blue here."*

## 20:00 - 24:00



*"A police lieutenant colonel was in charge of it all. I saw his title, but I did not see his face. He shouted: "I need to see your hands and legs." "So, animals, are you getting what you wanted? Animals! What? Where is your Sviatlana?..." This all lasted from the evening until the evening of the 12th. We practically stood at the fence all day."*

*(From the statement of a detainee)*

Some people stood near the wall on the territory of the RUVD for 20-22 hours. At night the air temperature dropped to 10 degrees. People were freezing, but it was impossible to get warm by moving, because the guards beat them up for any attempt to move. From time to time, they were taken to sign forged police reports. If someone did not want to sign it or wanted to read it first, he was immediately beaten. They forced people to unlock their phones, and if they didn't want to give away their passwords, they were beaten up.



*"... Everyone who was there signed the papers. Some sooner, some later. Some people didn't want to sign them. But in the end, with the help of a baton, all the reports without exception were signed."*



*"I had to write "I agree", my full name, three times. When I asked what I was signing, they told me: "We will explain to you now." And they used their clubs to help me "explain" what it was."*



*"Then, one by one, we were told to enter the password on our phones. One guy said: "You have no right, it's my phone." They started punching him very hard. After that, he entered his password. I thought I'd better*

*tell them the password right away.*

*Next, they called us by name, one by one, to come to them. An investigator sat there, he pointed with his finger at a place on a paper and said: "Sign here". Well, I didn't see how it was with the other guys, so I say: "Can I at least read what I am about to sign?" He turns to the OMON: "Work with him." Several officers take me around the corner and start beating me with clubs, boots, and hands. Well, so they beat me for some time, and then they ask, "Will you sign it? Naturally, I agreed, because I could see those who did not agree lying nearby. And I signed everything without even looking.*



*" Sign it!". I say: "What should I sign?". They beat me. I say: "I will not sign." A blow. I say: "Let me read." Another blow. I say: "Okay, just tell me, what does it say there?". — "Participation in an unsanctioned rally".*



*"We were put on our knees there and they forced us to sign the papers. I said that I would not sign something that I had not read. They started beating me with clubs on the back. I'm in pain already. I say: "Can I read it?" They start beating me. They start beating me on the fingers, it's horrible to get hit in the phalanges, and kicking me: "Sign it. And you have no other choice. And we signed the papers, we put several signatures. We didn't even read it."*

The detainees talk about the story of a guy with long hair whose hair was cut with scissors by a law enforcement officer. The guy was insulted and threatened with sexual violence.



*"... a guy was standing next to me near the wall. His hair was a little bit longer. One of the officers started these jokes about him that he "looked like a sissy." That chicks should be dealt with in such a way: "Now we'll just take a baton and you know where we'll shove it. Since you are such a man, since you look like a chick. We'll treat you like a chick. As a result, the next day, either a colonel or a lieutenant colonel came and rudely took him around the corner. There he cut his hair off. He took the scissors and made him a skinned chicken."*

The brutal beatings of the detainees did not stop. The loud shouts of the OMON riot police, the sounds of blows, cries and desperate screams of the detainees could be heard throughout the neighborhood.

Interviewees note that special attention was paid to motorcyclists and drivers. They were beaten especially hard. They also selectively beat those who had some kind of protective equipment: helmets, masks, goggles, or camouflage clothing. There have been cases of beatings for asking to go to the bathroom.



*"Later, they took me out, twisted my arms, put my face on the floor and took me to the RUVD. They brought me to the wall, there was barbed wire below, I clung to it with my legs, and it hurt. They bent me over, put my head against the fence, and started beating me on my legs, on the lower back, and on my back, shouting: "How much did they pay you? 50, 100 dollars? We'll find it and take it away! You wanted changes, here's changes for you! What do you have against Belarus?" I also had a white-red-white flag sticker on my car, and they said, "Do you know our flag? Tell us what our flag is." I had to say what our state flag is so that they stop beating me, I just couldn't scream anymore, I was on my knees."*



*"Constant threats of beatings. Some did not want to go and started asking about something, but a couple of blows with a baton and that was it. It was immediately made clear that you are nobody and your name is nothing. If you want to be beaten, you will be. If you stand and do what they say, then maybe not."*

*Some guy was brought in. His phone was blocked. They started beating him up. And very heavily, because the sounds of hitting the legs and somewhere in the lung area are different, they resonate, it's an entirely different sound. Anyone who heard this, will understand what I mean. They started beating him up, saying that they would unlock his phone anyway, only there would be other consequences if he unlocked it, or we would do it. That is, all the same, it is done within half an hour. He was beaten very badly. He said he had three children, but they beat him and then they took him inside the building and kept beating him because I could still hear him screaming from there."*



*"We were forced to squat, and do it to the count: on 'one' we go down, and on 'two' we stand up. Hands behind the head. And he would sometimes just say, "one," and that's it, and be silent. And he wouldn't say "two" for a very long time. Whoever falls down gets beaten, that's it."*

*Then I asked to go to the toilet, and he told me: "I'll take you now." They bend me down and walk me somewhere. I see two pairs of*

legs, walking to my right. I think: "Well, probably it's ok, they just walk along." They throw me around the corner, another 4 or 5 people, I didn't count how many, run up to me, and they just start beating me. Then they bent me down again, and brought me to my old place where I was standing and left saying "F\*ck you, no toilet for you."

Before being sent to the OIC, people were beaten mercilessly again.



"Finally, the paddy wagon arrived, and it was the most horrible moment. When we entered the paddy wagon, everyone who was there, it was light outside already, and everyone could be seen. Every cop, OMON guy... I don't know, there were different units. Everyone was beating us up. It's just someone would punch me in the ribs with his hand, someone would kick me, and someone else would use a truncheon, all while taking us to the paddy wagon."

## August 12, 2020



"Swearing, beatings, tears and groans, screaming. We just stood close to the wall and whispered to each other: "Don't listen, don't listen ...". And we just wept.

Yes, tears, moans. Guys are crying like children, yeah... "

(From the statement of a detainee)



Detainees in the courtyard of the Sovetskoye RUVD in Minsk. Photo: Nexta telegram channel

This day has been a major ordeal for the detainees. OMON and officers of the Sovetskoye RUVD, led by their boss, tortured people, severely beating and humiliating them .

## 00:00 - 04:00

All night and until the next afternoon, the detainees stood along the wall in a stretch position with their hands up. From time to time, they were forced to do physical exercises to the point of exhaustion, thus leaving them completely weakened, which is considered torture. If people could not do the exercises or did not do them the way the officers wanted, they were beaten.



*"We squat, we get up, we get in a semi-squat, and keep it. It wasn't a one-time thing, it repeated...The kind of exercise that was very exhausting. We were already just out of energy. Then hands behind the head. Squat again. If they didn't like how someone was doing it, they immediately punched him with a baton or kicked him with a boot. Or they beat people under the ribs with the palm, or with a fist. I was hit a couple of times with a foot, a fist, and an open palm. In different parts of the body."*

People were forced to sign falsified police reports while kneeling. The procedure was accompanied by a severe beating of those who did not agree with the reports.



*"And just before they began to call us to sign the reports, in this corner, where it is dark, and you can't see anything, they beat us twice as hard. That is, first beat everybody up, so that they sign the reports all at once, without reading. They brought us to sign the reports, put people on their knees, and said we could not watch."*



*"At two o'clock in the morning they brought a table and started bringing people one by one — to sign the report. When I asked to read it, I was hit on the liver. I say "I will not sign it" — and I was hit again. They said it was on "participation in unauthorized events". I said: "Look at my geolocation!"—"Well, the old gray-haired fag is too smart" And they punched me again..."*



*"At night we were periodically beaten with these rubber batons, hands and feet. We were moved to another corner of this yard. One by one, everyone was taken to the center of the yard, there were*

*stools, they put people on their knees and forced everyone to sign a report, without reading. If someone started reading the report, they started beating him."*

Newly arrived detainees were beaten with batons. They did not care who was in front of them — they punched elderly people and women. Humiliation crossed all boundaries:



*"...One guy was forced to eat his white bracelet."*



*"Young people were brought in and beaten. Police were yelling. A police lieutenant-colonel walked around and was in charge of it all. I won't say for sure, because I don't know, but many people may have said that it was the Head of the Sovetskoye RUV. He went around shouting orders, yelling 'cattle,' in different ways, it's impossible to convey, impossible to remember."*



*"There were some older people there, the oldest one was, like, seventy-five years old or something. That is, the attitude was just as brutal even to them. They got beaten, too. Then, when an old man started fainting, they let him sit down, or something, and they got him some Validol only in a couple of hours, maybe."*

*There were girls, the girls were also beaten, but not as hard as us, but I could hear that they were also crying, I could hear the blows.*

*They said: "Who got paid and how much?" There were some guys, either Turkmens or Uzbeks. I didn't understand that at all, there were probably six of them there. They were accused of raping some girl. So, they beat them mercilessly."*



*"I also remember there was a man, he was 60-65 years old, he was a military veteran, probably. He had two dogs left at home. He cried and asked to let him call someone to feed the dogs. He knew the dogs were locked in. And this "wonderful" Valentin began yelling at him that he had screwed up his shoulder straps, that he had sold himself and should be ashamed to say that he was in the military. They also kicked him in the legs and forced him to squat."*



## 04:00 - 08:00

In the morning, a new shift of security officers arrived, who began to beat the detainees with new vigor. The detainees were herded like cattle into the paddy wagons that came to pick them up, and beaten mercilessly. Both women and men were threatened with rape.



*"Sometime around morning, a lieutenant colonel showed up. I'm standing against the wall... My ankles were all black because they walked around and hit me on the inner side of my legs. He comes up to me, playing with a club. And he says: "Well, you, old gray-haired faggot, I'll fuck you with this club now." I think it was the deputy head of this RUVD. I said, "Well, try it." He is of medium height, stocky, with shoulder straps (two stars) and a full black uniform. In the morning (at 8 o'clock) a guy in a peaked 'airfield' cap arrived, the head of the RUVD, as I understood it (from the attitude of other officers). He's almost on a "first-name basis" with him [supposedly, the deputy head]."*



*"We heard that a paddy wagon came for us. They threw us, took us by the clothes and threw us right into the paddy wagon. There we were met by 2 OMON officers. They beat us and threw us into separate compartments (glassed). Where 4-5 people could fit, there were 10-12 of us. They were shoving us on top of each other, and we were not allowed to talk or look at each other. For this, they immediately beat us, opened the bars and beat us."*

The officers continued to "have fun", exhausting people with endless squats. Those who could not stand it and fell to the ground in exhaustion were beaten with truncheons.



*"Probably, the stars have already begun to fade in the sky, in the morning. They started morning exercises at about 4 a.m. You squat on the count of "one", you cannot do a full squat, on the count of "two" you stand up. Those who fall get beaten."*

## 08:00 ñ 12:00

In the morning, torture continued with forced heavy physical exercises. These "exercises" were organized directly by the leadership of the RUVD.



*"... Valentin. I believe he is a boss of some sort. He was 'pumping us up,' they said. He made us squat and do other stuff, from time to time."*

*You know, like army pumps, when you get up at night and one, two, three — you do the squats. So, there he was, probably from about nine o'clock, and we were transported from there at about 4 or 5 pm. We stood all night, and then squatted all day. Of the entire time, on three occasions we sat on the curb for 10 minutes each time, with our heads down and our palms out."*

## 12:00 - 16:00

Interrogations and the signing of forged reports continued all the time. Those who did not agree with what was written were beaten. They demanded passwords to people's phones, and those who refused to provide them were severely beaten. Paddy wagons came and took the detainees away, before getting in the paddy wagons people were beaten again.



*"The OMON officers began to beat out the password from my phone. At first, I refused, they beat me right away, then they threw me on the ground, pressed my head to the ground, and told me I would eat dirt now. Then they pressed my knee to the asphalt and demanded to give them the password. Like, we'll get it anyway, it's only a matter of time. I wasn't ready to resist, so I gave them the password."*

Then they returned me to the wall, I had to hold my hands with my palms against the wall, soon they got numb. When I tried to put them down, an OMON policeman came up and beat me."



*"We were taken to sign some papers, I wanted to read them, but they immediately started beating me. I signed..."*



*"When we ran into the paddy wagon, that is, it was also heavy... these blows came from all sides."*



*"At the entrance to the paddy wagon they arranged a corridor. OMON officers stood on both sides. You had to go through this corridor, through the clubs, you see. They yelled, shouted insults, and hit us with clubs. If someone slowed down or fell over, nobody picked him up, they beat him even more, saying, 'Get up, or we'll beat you even harder."*

## 20:00 - 24:00

In the evening new detainees were brought from the city. Many were severely beaten. There is a dark, poorly lit corner in the RUVD courtyard, where the officers took people to beat them up. One could constantly hear the shrieks of tortured people coming out of there. No medical assistance was provided to the detainees.



*"The guys were brought in at night—they were very badly beaten. One was lying, his butt was deformed from beatings. The policemen only mocked and laughed at him while he was just lying and could not do anything."*



*"Someone was brought in and beaten very hard in a dark corner. Never in my life have I seen a beating like that. Never in my life, have I seen a beating like that. I thought when people get hit so hard, they can hardly survive. They just lay there. One was later taken by an ambulance."*



*"After arriving at Sovetskoye RUVD, we were taken to the courtyard. There were four or five uniformed security officers in unmarked uniforms with balaclavas and batons standing on the porch. Just as we went out to the courtyard on the porch, they started beating us, they rolled us down with their feet, all this was accompanied by clubbing. Then they lifted us up by the scruff of the neck, put us up against a metal fence, that is, in a "star" position - arms wide open, legs wide open — and left us standing like that for a while.*

*Someone asked for an ambulance. One of guys had no shoes on, and his leg was blue and swollen. I'm not a doctor, of course, but he most likely had a fracture, because he couldn't even stand on his leg. And when the paddy wagons arrived the next day to take us to Akrestsina, they carried him in their arms."*

In the vehicles they also demanded the password to the phones, and those who didn't give it were beaten up. A detainee spoke about severe beatings and the threat of sexual violence against him.



*"I was in the paddy wagon for about 30 minutes. Then they started demanding to give them the phones. They took the phone, and wanted to unlock it. I refused to tell them the password. They continued to beat me. They beat me mainly on the buttocks, on the legs, and on the thighs. They kept punching me..."*

*... Then they went to the RUVD building to get some water. They poured water over me, saying they wanted the baton to stick to me better, and proceeded with beating me when I was wet. At some point they got fed up, pulled out a baton and said, "You are a faggot." They were talking a lot of crap. They cut my pants open, put a baton between my buttocks, and then I said I would unblock my phone..."*

## August 13, 2020



*"We were not allowed to turn away from the wall, but we could hear how people were beaten, how they were thrown out of buses. If a man falls, they roll him on the ground and beat him. Finally, by the morning there were about fifty or sixty detainees there. And everyone stood near the wall."*

*(From the statement of a detainee)*

## 00:00 - 04:00

All night the detainees were forced to kneel on the ground with their heads down and their hands zip tied behind their backs. They were constantly beaten. Interviewees tell us that the reasons for more brutal beatings and insults could have been different — standing in a wrong position, speaking the Belarusian language, having long hair, or tattoos on one's body. Some say they were taken to the assembly hall, where they were also beaten.

From time to time, the detainees were brought to the building of the RUVD to sign the reports. It was forbidden to read the documents and ask questions about the reports; detainees were severely beaten for that.



*"... They brought me in to sign the report. He was sitting at a table with these papers, and he hit me in the face. I asked to know the article I was charged under, he hit me in the face again. Then I started trying to put my signature, to find a place where I could put a cross. I put a cross, and got another blow in my face again. He said it wasn't a real signature."*

*Then they took me to the place where I had been lying. Again I had to lie in the same position for about 30 minutes. I was picked up, taken to the building, to the assembly hall. I was lying. The others stood around, some were beaten, some were called cocktail throwers [those who threw molotov cocktails]. They called me the 'coordinator'. Then people in some kind of military uniform arrived, probably some kind of convoy, also in paddy wagons. They called us "meat," and they also beat us on the legs."*



*"When they brought the reports, they started calling us out by name. It was around three or four o'clock. Those who refused to sign the report were beaten. I was also forced to sign it because I was also badly beaten. Under the threat of another beating, I signed the papers."*



*"I was interrogated. Some people questioned me, some others beat me.*

*...And they also picked on my Belarussian language. The one who was writing the report told me: "Listen, I have a headache already from your Belarusian language, speak Russian." I say, "Well, I'll try." Again, it's the situation when they keep beating you... How does it go? Israeli soldiers do what they are told to. Do everything to keep yourself alive and healthy.*

*I speak Belarusian all the time in my life. I can do Russian, too, but I need time to switch, I make mistakes, and my accent, yeah, the accent. And they started picking on my accent, beating me, swearing, threatening me, ordering me to speak Russian."*

## 04:00 - 12:00

The officers beat people for trying to find out their status or somehow defend their rights. They marked some people with paint, at their own discretion, and then these people were beaten more severely.



*"They were drawing up a report. I began to argue for my legal rights: "Please explain what article I was arrested for, what were the grounds for my arrest". No one would give me an answer, I was just beaten by four OMON officers, who knocked my sneakers off my feet, and I had to stand barefoot for the entire night."*



*"At half past eleven, several paddy wagons, and a MAZ bus arrived. They did a roll call by name, and some of us were marked with paint."*

## 12:00 - 16:00

People were taken away in overcrowded paddy wagons. The beatings and insults did not stop.



*"After lunch, the officers arrived, they pushed us into a paddy wagon, in a three-meter compartment, three people in each, no light, just a small light bulb. When they lifted us up, one shows you the way, and another one beats you on the legs. They called people "meat" – "come on, meat", "move it, meat"..."*

## 16:00 - 20:00

The OMON police were very aggressive, they beat the detainees for any request or conversation. OMON officers also forced young soldiers to beat the detainees.



*"We asked for water or the toilet. Any word was immediately followed by a punch. The treatment was very rude. This is what distinguished the OMON police. Even when they didn't do the beating themselves, they forced the soldiers to do it. They were told: "If you don't treat them hard enough, they are not afraid of you." And then the soldiers also used force."*

## 20:00 - 24:00

The detainees were brought in throughout the evening. As before, they were kept in the yard along the wall. They got hit for a slightest movement. They were also beaten for refusing to sign a falsified report.



*"In the RUVD, we stood all night with our hands and our faces against the wall in the yard. They beat us for a slightest movement. They brought in some more people. They treated us very rudely. They didn't explain anything. In the morning they brought the papers. It was still dark, and it was difficult to read what was written there. I just saw "Article 339 of the Criminal Code" and a further explanation to it. But they didn't let me read. They twisted my left hand behind my back,*

*and gave me a pen in my right hand, and said, "Sign it. I agreed at first, but then I saw that they were bringing some bad charges, so I tore the papers up. They beat me up for that. I had to stand at the wall for a long time, again, and then they brought another report."*

## CONSEQUENCES: INJURIES AND TRAUMAS OF THE DETAINEES

It is difficult to determine where and when exactly the victims were injured between August 9 and 13, since they were subjected to beatings and psychological pressure at all stages — from the arrest until the moment they were released. Injuries received during arrest and transportation were often aggravated at the RUVD because of mistreatment and failure to provide timely medical care, which people were often afraid to ask for. The police themselves provided medical aid only in most critical cases.



*"I said I was bleeding from my mouth. He took a flashlight, looked at me and at the ground, everything was covered in blood. I was taken to the doctors, and an ambulance took me to hospital. At the hospital they X-rayed my head and they also sewed my torn ear back on. They diagnosed me with moderately severe traumatic brain injury, laceration of the auricle, internal hematomas, and contusions."*

From several testimonies one could conclude about the severity of the injuries received by the detainees at the RUVD. In the materials reviewed, there were seven interviews with people where the main violence took place on the territory of the Sovetskoye RUVD. The most common injuries were abrasions, bruises, and contusions on the back, thighs, buttocks and legs. More serious injuries include craniocerebral injuries and fractures of varying severity.





*"The blows were received in the temporal region, [in the area] of this eye, there was a black eye on the right side, here. Here, near the ear, it was also swollen, that is, the blows were delivered here, just above the jaw, lower than the temple."*



*"Closed cranial trauma, then concussion of the brain, closed fracture of the tuberosity of the nail phalanx of the first finger of the right hand with satisfactory condition of the fragments, subnail hematoma of the first finger of the right hand, subcutaneous hematomas of the shins, thighs, buttocks, chest area on both sides. And a broken rib. Fracture of the posterior segment of the eighth rib on the left side. Closed fracture of the tuberosity of the nail phalanx. And a lot of hematomas. This is what the hospital recorded."*

One of the detainees had tear gas sprayed in the face when they were trying to force him to sign the report.



*"An OMON officer sprayed gas in my face, and it got into my left eye. Now [at the time of the interview in late August 2020] it has got better, but it used to tear up a lot."*

According to many interviewees, the main injuries sustained in those days were bruises, abrasions, and contusions of the back and lower body. It is worth noting that many of the detainees had tramline marks from the batons, and marks resembling boots, ties and palms.



*"In terms of injuries, I had a black shin on both legs. On the front of the thighs, due to being hit with a truncheon. The back was also all bruised. There were internal lumps, a kind of bruises on my butt."*



*"Numerous bruises and hematomas. They damaged the tendons, so it was hard to determine. There were hundreds of beaten people in the hospital. Apart from the shoulder, everything is documented."*

There are frequent cases when, in addition to the above injuries, the victims received more serious injuries — fractures, cracks, craniocerebral injuries, injuries of the face, ears, etc.



*"Every officer who passed me kicked me with his boots on the leg. That's how my right ankle got broken."*



*"I had a cracked coccyx, a bruised left thigh, numb fingers and a brain concussion."*

Also, some interviewees testify to hand injuries caused by special equipment: many detainees had their hands tied with plastic construction ties, usually very tightly. Prolonged periods in extremely tight restraints caused injuries ranging from bruises and cuts on the wrists to loss of sensation.



*"I sought medical aid in medical centers. They prescribed medication to me there. A whole stack of it. To restore sensation in the hand. And I am still going through rehabilitation [at the time of the interview in late August 2020]. Because I haven't regained my hand sensation yet."*



*"Scars from the ties [on the wrists], here the bone is slightly damaged, there is a medical record in traumatology unit, the bone was pinched on the left wrist."*

Some survivors report that the events of those days aggravated their old traumas.



*"I'm taking care of my shoulder now. Again, I had a shoulder injury three or four years ago. I pulled my hand when skating, and I had a sprain there. Now, when I was released, one day I had a sharp pain in this shoulder, i.e. I could neither lie nor sleep. I had a fever of just under 39 for about four days. I did an MRI — it showed, in my opinion, a rupture of the tendons and ligaments and a suspicion of a fracture of some kind of cartilage bone."*

Many survivors report their difficult mental state. The first days were especially difficult for most of those interviewed.



*"Honestly, if there was a shock, then the first phrase, shock and tears. I didn't cry while I was there. I went out the gate, and there's a crowd of people to greet me, and they give me something to eat. After that, I would burst with tears after any polite phrase addressed to me. It's just that someone saw me, showed some sympathy, made me cry, I could hardly hold tears back. They beat me — there are no tears, and after just a day, one day only, any attempts to help, to give me a ride — it all gave me tears."*

Survivors report an uncontrollable sense of fear after everything they had experienced, even when they were in the safety of their homes. Some people say that at first it was difficult for them to leave the house due to the fear that they might be arrested again, for no reason. At first they were afraid of buses and vehicles similar to those that the security forces used during the arrest.



*"I felt fear. That is, the next day I had the jitters, I was alone in the apartment, I really had the jitters, I was afraid to go outside. I was really scared, but I overcame myself, I went out, bought something, and made a phone call to someone. Also, I had to find a phone. But my mind was going like this... Can I do anything safely now? Can I go outside, can I go somewhere?"*



*"I was really afraid of these blue vans. Any vans, in general, but especially the tinted ones."*

Majority point to problems with sleep — nightmares and insomnia.



*"I had insomnia and lack of appetite for about two weeks. I didn't sleep well, and I woke up pretty often. Also, in terms of food. I didn't want to eat at all. In this regard, now [at the time of the interview in May 2021], everything is fine with digestion, with food, and with appetite."*

## INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR TORTURING DETAINEES AT THE SOVETSKOYE RUVD IN MINSK

Along with the identified officers, we believe it is particularly important to list the top officials responsible for the lawlessness in the Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk and the impunity of the perpetrators.

1. The person holding the post of President of the Republic of Belarus, **Lukashenko, Aleksander Grigoryevich (Aliaksandr Lukashenka)**.
2. Former Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus **Karaev, Yury Khadzhimuratovich (Yury Karayeu)** (June 11, 2019 - October 29, 2020).
3. Former Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus **Barsukov, Aleksander Petrovich (Aliaksandr Barsukou)** (2017 - 2020).
4. Former Head of the Main Department of Internal Affairs of Minsk City Executive Committee **Kubakov, Ivan Vladimirovich (Ivan Kurbakou)** (since October 29, 2020 — Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus).
5. Commander of the OMON GUV D of the Minsk City Executive Committee **Balaba, Dmitry Vladimirovich (Dzmitry Balaba)**.
6. Former Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus **Konyuk,**

**Aleksander Vladimirovich (Aliaksandr Kaniuk) (2011 - 2020).**

7. Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus **Shved, Andrey Ivanovich (Andrei Shved).**

8. Former Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus **Noskevich, Ivan Danilovich (Ivan Naskevich)** (November 10, 2015 - March 11, 2021).

9. Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus **Gora, Dmitry Yuryevich (Dzmitry Hara)** (since March 11, 2021).

10. Prosecutor of the city of Minsk **Lavrukhin, Oleg Vladimirovich (Aleh Laurukhin).**

11. Prosecutor of the Sovetski district of Minsk **Zagorovski, Anton Vladimirovich (Anton Zaharouski).**

According to the survivors, these days soldiers of the military unit 3214, OMON and cadets of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs served on the territory and in the premises of the Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk (in addition to the RUVD officers). All of them and their immediate commanders are also responsible for the mass torture and ill-treatment of detainees.

The statements of those interviewed by the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus identify a number of officials and their involvement in the torture of detainees on the territory and in the premises of the Sovetskoye RUVD from 9 to 13 August 2020.

The security officers were also identified through social networks, and people were able to recognize them after their photos were published on the Internet.



**FULL NAME**

**Kalinnik, Sergey Leonidovich  
(Siarhei Kallinik)**

**position, rank**

Head of the RUVD of Sovetski district of Minsk.

Police Colonel.

**Involvement in torture**



Recognized by many interviewees.

As the Head of the RUVD, he is responsible for organizing the mass torture of detainees there.

He personally took part and was in charge of torture. He led the arrests in the city on August 11-12, 2020.

On August 12, during the Women's Solidarity March, he was seen with an automatic weapon in the center of Minsk .

*"...Before that, I also saw some guy brought in. He was met by Sergey Kalinnik (I identified him later), the Head of the RUVD. ...He started beating the guy. R. answered him something, and this made him very angry. And Kalinnik took him and dragged him around the corner. Later R. came back from there beaten up very badly."*

*"...When he approached me, I once again said that I am an Israeli citizen, I ask to inform the embassy of my arrest. For this, I received a blow with a club in the stomach. It was Sergei Kalinnik."*

*"[He] beat the guy who was standing next to the detainee: took him to the side, beat him with a truncheon. Then at his order this guy was not given water and was not taken to the restroom."*

*"He went around threatening to fire his gun if we thought of rioting, or just looking at them to remember their faces."*

*"He was constantly swearing, saying, 'Who's paying you?'; 'Now we're going to give you the Constitution of 1994.'"*





FULL NAME

**Kessel, Timur Borisovich**  
**(Tsimur Kesel)**

position, rank

Deputy Head of the Sovetskoye RUVD for ideological work and HR.

Police Lieutenant Colonel.

Involvement in torture



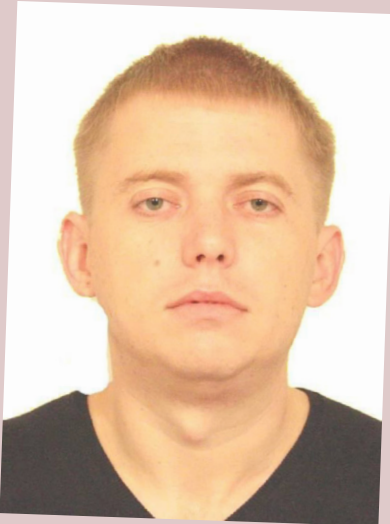
Identified by many interviewees.

As one of the leaders, he is guilty of mass torture of detainees on the territory of the RUVD. He directly led the torture and tortured people himself.

*"I recognize a particular person who was most brutal in beating us outside, who approached us, at the fence. And he went and beat people ... It was Kessel, Timur, one of the deputy heads."*

*"...one of the officers was walking around in a white festive shirt with such a rubber band at the bottom, like police officers wear, with short sleeves, and he was commanding the others what to do with the detainees. He was the one in charge of the torture. I saw the moment when he walked up to this guy with a broken arm and told him to raise his hands. The guy said that his arm was broken and he couldn't lift it. Kessel grabbed it exactly where it was fractured and slammed it hard against the fence. The guy was in a lot of pain. He started moaning and screaming. Later, on the Internet, I went to the RUVD website, and I recognized him. It was Kessel, Timur. He is the deputy chief of the RUVD. In addition, after I was released, I found a fair number of guys who were with me on the bus, in the paddy wagon, and at the police department, and I asked them to identify him too, if they had seen him, if they knew who he was. And most of them recognized him and said it was him."*

*"Kisel walked around the courtyard of the RUVD from time to time and insulted and threatened everyone. He poked some people with a club and beat them."*



**FULL NAME**

**Kachuk, Igor**  
**(Ihar Kachuk)**

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**position, rank**

Senior district police inspector of the Sovetskoye RUVD in Minsk

**Involvement in torture**



He participated in the dispersal of civilians at Komarovka market. He was also seen as a witness for the prosecution at the sessions of the Sovetski District Court of Minsk (on the charges under Article 23.34 of the CAO).

On August 9, 2020, in the Akrestsina temporary detention center, he abused the detainees, insulted and beat people, and instructed the OMON officers to “kill” the most talkative and dissenting detainees.







FULL NAME

**Shimanski, Valentin Valentinovich**  
**(Valiantsin Shymanski)**

position, rank

Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



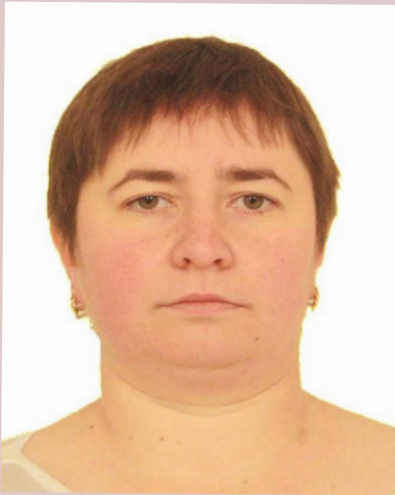
Mentioned by many detainees as one of the cruelest officers. He was directly involved in the torture.



*"He forced everyone to squat, then beat them in the legs. He even hit pensioners. He took the guys to the bathroom, didn't give them time to put their underpants back on, and took them back.*

*"Then this one, his name was Valentin. This is probably the most rotten person I've ever seen. He is a monster. He enjoys all of this. He then yelled at this woman, like why do you walk these streets, you need to stay at home and cook porridge. I will show you democracy! He also said: "I'll tie your clitorises in a knot."*

*"... Valentin. I believe he is a boss of some sort. He was 'pumping us up,' they said. He finished his shift in the morning. He came and in addition to standing, we had to actively squat from time to time, and doing other things. You know, like army pumps, when you get up at night and one, two, three — you do the squats. So, there he was, probably from about nine o'clock, and we were transported from there at about 4 or 5 pm. We stood all night, and then squatted all day. Of the entire time, on three occasions we sat on the curb for 10 minutes each time, with our heads down and our palms out."*



**FULL NAME**

**Safonova, Marina Valerievna**  
**(Maryna Safonava)**

**position, rank**

Inspector of the Penitentiary Inspectorate of Public Security Police.

Police major.

**Involvement in torture**



On the night of August 10-11, she searched the detainees, while threatening them and not explaining their rights.

She threatened the detainees with a baton in the courtyard of the Sovetskoye RUVD. She did not take any action to prevent torture by other officers.





FULL NAME

**Matskevich, Pavel Ivanovich**  
**(Pavel Matskevich)**

position, rank

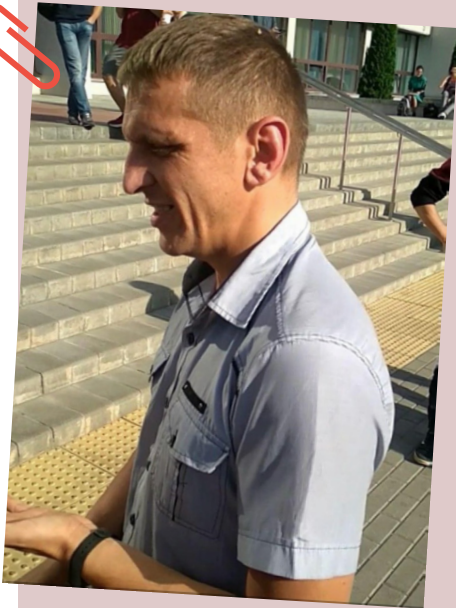
Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



He was directly involved in the torture. He appears in reports of administrative offenses as a police witness.

*"He looks like one of the men who beat me in the courtyard and probably was in charge of others. I remember that this guy had a hoarse voice."*





**FULL NAME**

**Bely, Dmitry**  
**(Dzmitry Bely)**

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**position, rank**

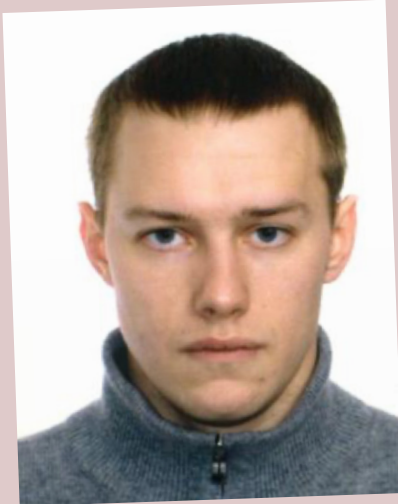
Employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

**Involvement in torture**

.....

He was present in the RUVD and guarded the detainees. He constantly threatened them with torture. He was directly involved in torture, severely tightening detainees' hands with plastic ties.

*"He stood in the yard and watched the detainees. They behaved boldly and aggressively, periodically threatening to use force. They took the detainees to the building for interrogations. While conveying the detainees, they kept their heads very low and strongly tightened their hands with plastic ties."*



FULL NAME

**Boyko, Anatoly**  
**(Anatol Boika)**

position, rank

Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

.....

He was present in the RUVD and guarded the detainees. He threatened detainees with torture. He was directly involved in torture, severely tightening detainees' hands with plastic ties.

*"He stood in the yard and watched the detainees. They behaved boldly and aggressively, periodically threatening to use force. They took the detainees to the building for interrogations. While conveying the detainees, they kept their heads very low and strongly tightened their hands with plastic ties..."*



**FULL NAME**

**Bushmak, Igor  
(Ihar Bushmak)**

**position, rank**

Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

**Involvement in torture**

.....

He was present in the RUVD and guarded the detainees. He threatened detainees with torture. He was directly involved in torture, severely tightening detainees' hands with plastic ties.

*"He stood in the yard and watched the detainees. They behaved boldly and aggressively, periodically threatening to use force. They took the detainees to the building for interrogations. While conveying the detainees, they kept their heads very low and strongly tightened their hands with plastic ties..."*



FULL NAME

**Voronkov, Maksim**  
**(Maksim Varankou)**

position, rank

Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

.....

He was present in the RUVD and guarded the detainees. He threatened detainees with torture. He was directly involved in torture, severely tightening detainees' hands with plastic ties.

*"He stood in the yard and watched the detainees. They behaved boldly and aggressively, periodically threatening to use force. They took the detainees to the building for interrogations. While conveying the detainees, they kept their heads very low and strongly tightened their hands with plastic ties..."*

**N° 011**

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**FULL NAME**

**Doroshevich, Dmitry**  
**(Dzmitry Darashevich)**

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**position, rank**

Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

**Involvement in torture**



He was present in the RUVD and guarded the detainees. He did not take any action to prevent torture by other officers.

**N° 012**

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**FULL NAME**

**Kazak, Vladimir**  
**(Uladzimir Kazak)**

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**position, rank**

Employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

**Involvement in torture**



He was present in the RUVD, and forged police reports against the detainees. He did not take any action to prevent torture by other officers.



**N° 013**



FULL NAME

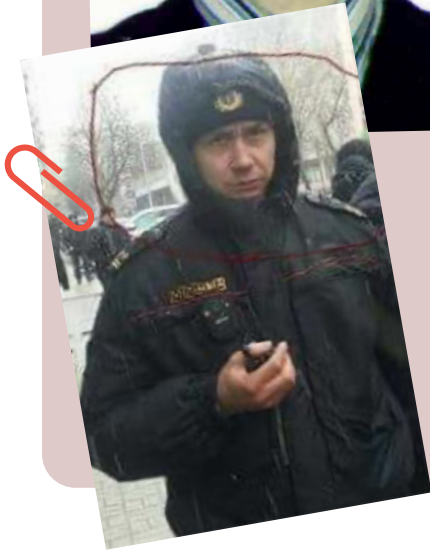
**Karpovich, Sergey Aleksandrovich**  
**(Siarhei Karpovich)**

position, rank

Employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

.....  
He was present in the Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk and interrogated the detainees. He did not take any action to prevent torture by other officers.



**N° 014**



FULL NAME

**Korasteleva, Olga**  
**(Volha Karastsialova)**

position, rank

Employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

.....  
She was present in the Sovetskoye RUVD, took part in the searches of the detainees, threatening them and not explaining their rights.

She did not take any action to prevent torture by other officers.

**N° 015**



**FULL NAME**

**Nikitina, Svetlana Sergeevna**  
**(Sviatlana Nikitsina)**

**position, rank**

Employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

**Involvement in torture**

.....  
She was present in the Sovetskoye RUVD, and did an inventory of the detainees' belongings. She did not inform the embassy about the detention of a foreign citizen. She did not take any action to prevent torture by other officers.

*"She did an inventory of things in the courtyard. She did not allow the victim with a medical condition to keep his mask on, thus endangering his life and health."*

**N° 016**



**FULL NAME**

**Romanov, Pavel Nikolaevich**  
**(Pavel Ramanau)**

**position, rank**

Employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

**Involvement in torture**

.....  
He was present in the Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk and forged the reports against the detainees. He did not take any action to prevent torture by other officers.

**N° 017**



FULL NAME

**Voronishche, Denis**  
**(Dzianis Varanishcha)**

position, rank

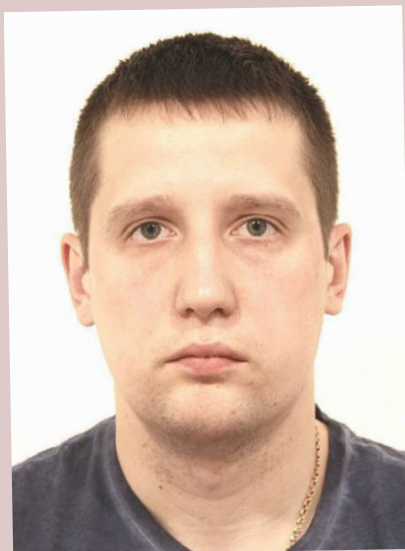
An employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



He was present in the Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk and forged the reports against the detainees. He did not take any action to prevent torture by other officers.

**N° 018**



FULL NAME

**Molchan, Vasily Vasilievich**  
**(Vasily Molchan)**

position, rank

An employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



He arrested people near the Komarovsky market and loaded them into the buses.

**N° 019**

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FULL NAME

**Alekseev, Denis**  
**(Dzianis Aliakseyeu)**

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position, rank

An employee of Frunzenskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Mentioned in the legal documents of the victims as a witness security officer.

**N° 020**

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FULL NAME

**Bichikov, Sergey**  
**(Siarhei Bichykau)**

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position, rank

An employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Mentioned in the legal documents of the victims as a witness security officer.

**N° 021**

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FULL NAME

**Kasabutsky, Sergey**  
**(Siarhei Kasabutski)**

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position, rank

An employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Mentioned in the legal documents of the victims as a witness security officer.

**N° 022**

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FULL NAME

**Lukyanchuk, Nikolay**  
**(Mikalai Lukyanchyk)**

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position, rank

An employee of Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Mentioned in the legal documents of the victims as a witness security officer.



FULL NAME

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

position, rank

[REDACTED]

Involvement in torture

.....  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

We continue with the process of identifying the individuals involved in torture at Sovetskoye RUVD in order to hold all the perpetrators accountable.

If you know or recognize any of the officers on the published photos<sup>1</sup>, please contact the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus

website: <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/ru/>,

e-mail: [contact@torturesbelarus2020.org](mailto:contact@torturesbelarus2020.org),

Telegram: [@ICTB2020\\_contact](https://t.me/@ICTB2020_contact)

**We guarantee maximum security in communication.**

<sup>1</sup> <https://telegra.ph/-05-23-984>

## **LEGAL ASSESSMENT OF THE ACTIONS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN BELARUS**

Numerous testimonies presented in the report show that massive and widespread acts of violence (torture), abuse and cruelty were committed against civilians detained between August 9 and 13, 2020, by the officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on the territory of the Sovetskoye RUVD of Minsk, which amounted to the following.

People who were captured in the streets of Minsk and taken to the police department were subjected to organized beatings by chasing them through the line of officers with batons (the so-called “corridors”). The detainees were then lined up in the RUVD courtyard along the wall and fence and held in a static pose with their hands up, under threat or violence, for long hours, in excruciating pain and suffering. The slightest disobedience, timid protest, or simply a demand to obey the law was followed by beatings, insults, and threats of rape.

Women detainees were subjected to physical and psychological violence and cynical insults. Like the men, they stood at the wall with their hands raised for twenty-four hours or more.

People were not given any food, and were restricted in water and access to the toilet. Any demands for their rights were suppressed by force (beatings). Medical aid was often not provided and no medications were given.

Under such circumstances, the actions of OMON officers, and police officers of the Sovetskoye RUVD, servicemen of internal troops, military personnel of the military unit 3214, and other security agencies on the territory and in the premises of the Sovetskoye RUVD in relation to the detainees are criminal under both domestic and international law, as described in the present investigation.

These actions are fully covered by the elements of the crime stipulated by Article 128 of the Criminal Code of Belarus (crimes against security of humanity), according to which unlawful detention, torture or acts of cruelty committed in connection with political convictions of the civilian population shall be punished by imprisonment for seven to twenty-five years, or life imprisonment, or death penalty.

Under international criminal law, these acts of violence also fall entirely under article 7(1)(e), (f) and (k) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law, as well as torture and other inhumane acts of a similar character by intentionally inflicting great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.

It is noteworthy that since the crime under Article 128 of the Criminal Code refers to the most dangerous crimes against the peace and security of mankind, Article 85 of the Criminal Code stipulates that those guilty of committing this crime shall not be exempt from criminal liability or punishment due to the statute of limitations.



