

Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk Torture of detainees on August 9–13, 2020

Public Inquiry



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ABBREVIATIONS

TDF — Temporary Detention Facility

CAO — Code of Administrative Offenses of the Republic of Belarus

OMON — special police squad

RUVD — District Department of Internal Affairs

CC — Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus

OIC — Offenders Isolation Center

Akrestsina — location of a temporary detention center and offenders isolation center in Minsk

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, has conducted a public inquiry into the events at the Tsentralnoye RUVD in Minsk from 9 to 13 August 2020.

This inquiry is the third investigation into cases of mass torture and ill-treatment in the **district departments of internal affairs of the city of Minsk** after the 2020 presidential election in Belarus. The Committee's experts have previously analyzed the events at the Frunzenskoye¹ and Sovetskoye² RUVDs in Minsk, where, along with the Akrestsina Offenders Isolation Center³ and other police departments, detainees were kept on 9-13 August 2020.

1 Public inquiry: torture of detainees in August 2020 in the Frunzenskoye police department of Minsk. <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/ru/belarus-prestuplen%D0%B8e-prot%D0%B8v-chelovechnost%D0%B8/> (RU)

Public investigation: torture of detainees in August 2020 in the Frunzensky police department of Minsk. <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/en/belarus-zlachynstva-supracz-lyudskasczi/> (Eng)

2 Public Inquiry into Torture at the Sovetskoye RUVD on August 9-13, 2020. "Go, go, killem all! Have you forgotten what country you live in?" <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/ru/davaj-davaj-zabivaj-vy-shto-zabylysiya-u-yakoj-kraine-zhyvyacze/> (RU)

Public Inquiry into Torture at the Sovetskoye RUVD on August 9-13, 2020 GO, GO, KILLEM ALL! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT COUNTRY YOU LIVE IN?

<https://torturesbelarus2020.org/en/go-go-kill-em-all-have-you-forgotten-what-country-you-live-in/> (Eng)

3 "You will die here." Akrestsina prisoners testify." Public inquiry. <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/ru/vy-sdohnete-zdes/> (RU)

"YOU WILL DIE HERE". Testimonies of the Prisoners of Akrestsina. Public investigation of cases of mass torture in the Center for isolation of offenders in the city of Minsk on August 9-14, 2020 <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/en/vy-sdohnete-zdes/> (Eng)

The police started bringing people to Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk on the evening of the Voting Day, August 9, 2020. Many were arrested near polling stations in the Tsentralny district of Minsk, where they were in hopes of learning the true results of the vote. Mass arrests of protesters downtown Minsk began on the evening of August 9 and lasted through August 11 and 12.

Victims interviewed testified that law enforcement officials were apparently ordered to be particularly harsh during mass arrests in the city. People were grabbed near the Stela on Peramozhtsau Avenue, near the Pershamayskaya metro station, around Arlouskaya, Tsimirazeva, Sukhaya, Karol streets, the Dynamo stadium, and other places in the city center. The police arrested citizens at random, snatching anyone they could find: protesters as well as ordinary passersby, cyclists, local residents returning from work, and public transport passengers. OMON police would stop the city buses and arrest all the men on a bus. Many were severely beaten with batons both during arrest and transportation to the RUVD. The police also often used stun guns and pepper spray against people.

The beating and abuse of peaceful citizens continued in the Tsentralnoye District Police Department (RUVD). The people with "political" charges, article 23.34 of the CAO (violation of the order of organizing mass events), in particular, just as those marked with paint by OMON, and people with tattoos of national Belarusian symbols and of different appearance (long hair, dreadlocks, piercings) suffered the most brutal beatings in the police department. Many detainees spent long hours outside at night in the rain, lying face down on the asphalt or standing against the wall in stressful positions with their arms raised or pulled back. Often the hands were tied with plastic construction ties or handcuffs.

These days even minors (14-17-year-olds) were brought to the police department. They were arrested and beaten along with adults, with no allowance for their age. Later, police officers contacted the parents and let them pick their kids up. No protocols were drawn up against the minors, but many hours of being held in the RUVD, mockery and threats caused severe physical and psychological trauma to the children.

Women were brought to the Tsentralnoye RUVD along with men, but, according to the interviewees, there were not very many of them and they were not beaten as severely as men. However, they were also insulted, intimidated, and threatened with sexual violence. The women saw the beatings and torture in the courtyard of the police station, heard the screams and moans of the beaten men throughout their whole time at the Tsentralnoye RUVD.

Detainees placed in police department cells did not always have the opportunity to use the toilet. In addition, they experienced problems with access to drinking water, while food was not provided at the RUVD. The cells were overcrowded, poorly ventilated, humid, stuffy, and cold. Even though many citizens were in need of emergency medical assistance and essential medications (heart medicines, insulin, etc.), requests to call an ambulance were ignored and medical assistance was not provided. COVID-19 sanitary and hygienic measures and restrictions were not observed at the Sovetskoye RUVD during the pandemic, posing a serious threat to the life and health of the detainees.

They reported the overexcited state of the police officers, their uncontrolled aggression towards the detainees, and dilated pupils⁴. Some interviewees believe that officers may have taken drugs or been under the influence of special psychological manipulation.

Detainees spent an average of 20–24 hours or more at the Tsentralnoye RUVD. After the protocols were drawn up, depending on the gravity of the incriminated act, they were sent to the Akrestsina TDF or OIC, or to the TDF in Zhodzina.

This paper provides a chronological account of what happened on the territory of the Tsentralnoye RUVD, based on interviews with the victims. The experts of the *International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus* carefully analyzed 54 individual interviews⁵ (772 pages of transcribed text) with the people, who were arrested in the city streets and taken to the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk. They also carefully reviewed the photos of injuries and medical documents (137 pages) provided by the interviewees.

Section "[Consequences: Detainees' Traumas and Injuries](#)" describes the medical consequences of being held at Tsentralnoye RUVD. It is based on medical records and testimonies of the victims of violence and abuse during arrest and at the RUVD.

Section "[Perpetrators of torture in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk](#)" reviews information from the databases run by partner organizations and initiatives, as well as open sources, social media, Telegram channels, and victims' statements.

⁴ Interviewees often spoke about the atypical, agitated state of the law enforcement officers at the Tsentralnoye RUVD. The experts of the *International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus* also heard similar allegations in the interviews of the former detainees held at Sovetskoye and Frunzenskoye RUVDs of Minsk on the same days.

⁵ 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>.

Section [“Legal Assessment of Actions of Law Enforcement Officers of Belarus”](#) analyzes the actions of employees of the Tsentralnoye (RUVD) of Minsk and their compliance with the national legislation and the standards of the international law.

All personal data and documents are available to the *International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus*, but we do not disclose them in this public investigation for the safety of victims and our sources.



Photo of Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk Arlouskaya Street, 58/1.

TIMELINE OF TORTURE

AUGUST 9-13, 2020

The police started bringing citizens to the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk in the evening of August 9, 2020, right after the end of the voting in the presidential election. Many people were arrested near polling stations in the Tsentralny district of Minsk, where they gathered in hopes of learning the true results of the vote. The arrests of protesters continued throughout the following days from August 10 to 13, 2020. Paddy wagons with beaten people constantly arrived at the Tsentralnoye RUVD.

The whole world learned in those August days about the terrible things happening to detainees in all Minsk police departments. It is obvious that the order for mass torture and ill-treatment was given at the highest level, and the law enforcement officers carried it out with zeal. During transportation in the paddy wagons, the police needed to filter the detainees according to the degree of "severity" of the act committed, so they tried to force confessions and gain access to the contents of the detainees' phones. This was often achieved through severe beatings and threats, including of a sexual nature.

Many detainees were brought to the Tsentralnoye RUVD already heavily beaten and marked with paint by OMON officers during the arrest or transportation. It was these people who were subsequently beaten and tortured at the police department with particular brutality.

August 9, 2020

“Someone ordered to stop the bus and open the door. The door opened and one of the police officers kicked the woman in the stomach. Right from the bus, kicked in the stomach – this woman fell, and then people managed to pull her back.”

From the victim's testimony

There were few people brought to the police department in the afternoon before the closure of polling stations. Most of them were election observers in Tsentralny district. However, they were not tortured or beaten. Mass torture began after 21:00, when people in large numbers took to the streets to protest the election fraud. On August 9, when transporting the detainees to RUVDs, the security officers beat everyone at random, including women, minors, and the elderly.

20:00 • 24:00

By evening, the security officers began to treat new detainees more aggressively and unrestrainedly. All detainees were placed against the wall or against the fence in the courtyard of the police department with their arms up, feet wider than their shoulders. They were not allowed to move or change their position, otherwise they were brutally beaten. Many arrived in the RUVD with broken limbs and severe beatings, but no medical assistance was provided.

“There was even a guy with a broken leg, and another guy who was bleeding. I didn't see him that close, but I heard him say: “I'm bleeding.” And they said something like, “you won't die, and if you do, no problem.”

August 10, 2020

"I figured this whole system was fired up closer to nighttime, and I was already in the cell by 7 p.m. Then all sorts of terrible things were happening in the RUVD courtyard, but I had already been admitted and in cell by that time. You could say I was lucky in this sense."

"Then the officers told me that it was pretty quiet in there, whereas at the police department, I could be raped with a champagne bottle, and confess to anything."

From the victims' statements

After midnight, the number of detainees at the RUVD grew rapidly. The police forced the arrivals to stand against the wall in the courtyard in the cold of the night in unnatural positions for many hours, with their hands bound very tightly with plastic construction ties or handcuffed. People were severely beaten for every request or disagreement with the officers, while any requests for medical assistance needed after torture were ignored or brutally suppressed. Some detainees were forced to lie on the wet asphalt outside or were placed in packed cells with extreme overcrowding and lack of oxygen.

00:00 • 04:00

The police offloaded people from the paddy wagons, forcing them to bend into the so-called swallow position (arms raised together high up behind one's back, head lowered almost completely to the ground). The detainees were placed in the courtyard on the territory of the police department, facing the wall with their feet spread wide apart. The officers forced the detainees to keep this stressful position from about midnight to 8 or 9 in the morning. The detainees' hands were bound very tightly with plastic construction ties. Those who did not hold their feet wide enough or tried to stretch them in some way, as well as those who tried to look around, were immediately beaten.

"It's very difficult to stand against the wall on straight legs for three hours, your legs go numb. And so, you try to raise your heel a little, and they hit you right under the knee. When they noticed that we were moving, they hit us on the shin, on the rib, or under the knee with a baton, aggressively..."

"Somebody looked sideways, and they came up to him and just banged his head against the wall. There's nothing you can do. You are in captivity, and they can do anything to you."

Any attempts to communicate with the officers or to ask for something, to express dissatisfaction or to speak about civil rights were punished with severe beatings.

"Someone asked to loosen the handcuffs, and they immediately beat him, someone said that his hands were numb [when handcuffed], and they beat him, too. Whenever someone said something, they immediately hit him either with a baton or came up and punched him in the kidneys."

"One guy started arguing with one of the officers. They laid him on the floor, put iron handcuffs on him, and about five OMON officers just jumped on these handcuffs right on his wrists. "I have never heard anyone being tortured like that and screaming like that. It was terrifying. My blood just ran cold."

Despite the presence of medical personnel at the RUVD, no medical assistance was provided to the detainees, even for severe injuries. The officers refused to call an ambulance.

"She [the medical worker] says, 'You've got a crack in the radial bone.' I was like, "What should I do?" She goes: "Nothing." They lifted me quite roughly by the collar and put me against the wall."

"I say: "Look, my head is broken, there's blood on my face. Help me!" ...She [the medical worker] came up to me and wiped the blood from my head. I tell her: "I'm dizzy, I don't feel well." And she tells me: "You won't die!" ...The OMON officers turned me towards the wall, and that was all. They left."

"Someone definitely needed an ambulance, but everyone was afraid. People were scared or they realized there was no point, any request would just mean more beating."

04:00 • 08:00

It had rained the previous day, but despite this, the drenched and tormented people continued to stand in the courtyard in unnatural poses. Some

detainees could not stand the stress and fainted from fatigue. However, even fainting was not considered a valid reason for assistance or easing the conditions of detention — they would lift the person up and put him back against the wall.

"When we stood there near the wall, for about 6 hours... some fainted. I saw 2 or 3 people fall unconscious, they were not given [medical assistance] either, they were just lifted, turned over, put against the wall, and hit in the face until they came round. They let him rest for a while, and then they picked him up again and make him stand against the wall."

The brutal beatings continued until dawn, and many of the bleeding detainees were forced to stand against the wall.

"They didn't specifically ask for an ambulance, probably everyone was afraid, because there were people covered in blood, there was blood on the floor."

"He has already been beating him to the point that he got tired, and the boss said: "Come on, hit him again." He replied: "I'm tired," and the boss goes: "Go ahead, hit him again, I say!"

08:00 • 12:00

At about 8-9 am, the police began to bring the detainees inside the building to draw up reports of the administrative offense and make an inventory of detainees' belongings. In response to people's requests to familiarize themselves with the contents of the reports or their refusal to sign them, the officers promised to continue the beating or bring criminal charges. The detainees state that all the reports were fabricated.

"I asked for the opportunity to read the report. He told me: "Just sign it if you don't want any trouble!" He told me that they could trump up a criminal charge against me."

"Always swearing, such a rude attitude, as they were talking to the tough criminal, as if it was about murder or something".

After signing the reports, the detainees were recorded on video, forced to recite their personal data, and photographed. People with obvious signs of

torture and beatings on their bodies were not photographed; probably to avoid recording evidence of torture.

"The photographer looked at me and said he would not take photos of me. I don't know why, probably because of my appearance: my lips were swollen, my eye and eyebrow were broken, and half my face was swollen. And my leg."

"They didn't call the cyclist to sign a report, I guess, because he had obvious marks [of beatings] on his face, when they photographed everyone, he had racoon eyes, huge bruises. That is, to be on the safe side."

The police continued to purposely ignore any reports of injury or ill health.

"I told the officer who filled out the report that my head was cut, I felt really sick, I had a cut. And he just told me: "It's none of my business, just sign the papers and move on." And he said this in a very rude way."

"I naturally requested medical care every time I could, 5 or 10 times, because I got hit in the eye by one of the officers and my vision went blurry. It dropped from "one" (as I later found out when I went to the doctor the next day) to 0.1. Naturally, I told them all that, I demanded medical care, but didn't get any."

After signing the reports and photographing, some people were taken to the overcrowded cells, while others, due to lack of space in the cells, were taken back to the wall in the courtyard of the RUVD.

Due to cell overcrowding, many people were lying on the cold floor. Detainees' requests to go to the toilet were often denied; police officers were reluctant to take people to the toilet and did so very rarely. Water was also given very rarely and only in small volumes. At the same time, people were forced to drink from the same drinkware, which was a health and life hazard amid the COVID-19 pandemic. No food was provided. The OMON officers who monitored the detainees in their cells and in the courtyard constantly threatened to torture or kill them.

"Then they sent me to a RUVD cell, with over 20 people there. Many were sitting on the floor. We had no water, no food. They didn't let us go to the bathroom."

"The OMON officers kept walking around and saying something to us, making some threats. There was always some kind of psychological pressure on everyone, like, "That's it, you're in trouble, now we're going to kill you. There was always some kind of intimidation, some kind of threats made."

"... The officers in masks also stood next to him and told me to shut up in a rude manner. They said they would beat me hard if I said any other word."

12:00 • 16:00

Around 12:00-13:00, some of the detainees were prepared for transportation to the Akrestsina and Zhodzina TDFs. The police literally crammed people into the "glasses" (one square meter sections), placing 4 to 6 people in each section of the vehicle. People continued to be beaten inside the paddy wagons. Due to the sweltering summer heat, it was very stuffy inside the police vehicles — people suffered from unbearable heat and lack of oxygen. If someone felt unwell, no medical assistance was provided to them.

" They crammed the guys in, six or seven at a time, as many as they could fit... One of them was even returned to our cell as there was no more room for him in the vehicle. He said they had put them on the floor of the paddy wagon and beat them with batons."

"There was also a man about 50-55 years old. At some point he felt sick; apparently there was something wrong with his blood pressure. I just heard a blow and he collapsed. He was denied medical care."

At lunchtime, more detainees were brought to the Tsentralnoye RUVD. They were also beaten and forced to take similar stress positions against the walls inside the RUVD building.

"They put me facing the wall, and next to me there was a guy with a bandage on his head and nose, blood was dripping from him. When I asked what happened to him, an officer started yelling at me from the next room. I understood that he was riding bicycles with his girlfriend in Chaluskintsau Park, and the OMON ran up to him, and one of the officers took out a knife and cut his nose. The guy had already turned white and would not stop bleeding. Someone from the police called an ambulance. A woman came, examined the guy and started shouting at the police: "What are you doing? What have

you done? One of the officers answered the doctor: "Well, what did you expect, this is our job."

"I was taken out into the courtyard, and he offered me a choice of two puddles. He says: "Choose the puddle where you want me to dunk your face, and you will lie either in this one or in that one".

"There was one warrant officer who kept shouting that he was about to put me on the floor, beat me up, kill me, take me out somewhere... All that kind of stuff."

During interrogations by investigators, detainees were also beaten to force them to quickly sign the reports and provide passwords for their phones and instant messengers.

"The guys were taken to interrogations, where they were beaten, forced to sign various papers, give passwords to their phones, and telegram channels."

OMON officers continued beating the detainees. Everything was done with the explicit approval of the RUVD Head and other officers.

"The Head of Tsentralnoye RUVD dealt with my case personally. An OMON commander called him to ask what he should do with me before sending me to Akrestsina. After they talked, he beat me up."

"It was mostly the police who controlled the situation at the RUVD, but they allowed OMON brigades there, and some people got beaten up in the adjacent cells. OMON officers were also in the RUVD courtyard, where some people were taken to be beaten."

The most severely beaten people were those charged with "political" articles of the Administrative Code, in particular Article 23.34 (violation of the procedure for organizing mass events).

"The guys charged with an unauthorized mass event suffered worse beatings and humiliation than others. For example, I was there under "Petty Hooliganism" charges, and I was treated with less bullying, so to speak, until they found out that I had made a performance on the Election Day. Then they started beating me..."

16:00 • 20:00

“My blood froze with horror that a person could feel so bad. Despite all the fear and orders not to move, you look at the wall and see with your side vision people praying on hearing those screams, because it sounded horrible. His scream was unbearable...”

From the victim's testimony

There was a room on the 4th floor of the RUVD building where the officers tortured the detainees. To obtain testimony, people were beaten on the head and body with fists, feet and batons, had their fingers broken, and were tasered.

“There on the fourth floor, they say, was practically a torture chamber. There they beat people with stun guns, put a rubber stick under their leg, put their leg up, in short, they conducted almost a physical interrogation, as I understood it.”

“I was immediately taken up to the fourth floor. They put them up against the wall, and I could hear someone being beaten on the other side of the wall. It turned out, there was a guy being tasered there, as the police were trying to find out who his supervisor was.”

“The officer who brought me in, forced me to kneel with my head down on the floor. In the process of our further “communication,” if my head came off the floor, they pushed it back there with a foot. ...They did it in a pretty harsh manner. In the process, they injured my head, and it was bleeding. At that moment I didn't feel it, only when I saw blood on the floor did I understand that my head was injured.”

“They kicked me a few times and asked a question or two, got an answer, then they poked me in the left buttock a few times with a stun gun and asked me a question again. They kicked me in the chest and stomach area.”

“I mean, he was trying to either hurt me or injure my finger, because he would take a pen or a pencil and try to pull it against the pencil. It's hard for me to reenact this. There were punches to the neck and head, they stepped on my head, and kicked me on the stomach and chest several times. Two or three shocks with a stun gun and they twisted my fingers.”

Most of the detainees standing against the wall had their hands bound with plastic construction clamps or handcuffs, causing poor blood circulation in their hands and causing them to become very stiff. When asked to loosen the ties or handcuffs, they tightened them even more.

"I asked the police to remove the clamps of an older guy (he looked about 63-65 years old) who was lying next to me. To this, one policeman pressed his baton on the guy's face and said: "Well, old geezer! Do you get it now? They wanted to hit him."

"We then noticed this guy with his hands tightened with a plastic clamp behind his back and they had gone purple blue by that time. We asked that his hands be loosened, but this was not done. It felt like his hands would wither, it was clear that there was no blood supply."

"They cuffed the hands with metal handcuffs, and immediately tightened them as much as possible so that they cut into the skin and bones. The hand cannot move inside the handcuff."

The people who could resist at least verbally and refused to obey the police were beaten most severely.

"He kept raging, "What the hell am I being arrested for, haven't you all lost your goddamn minds here." Two or three people grabbed him, dragged him somewhere to the side behind our backs and beat him very hard for about 10 minutes. He shouted some words at first, then he just kept screaming. "My blood froze with horror that a person could feel so bad. Despite all the fear and orders not to move, you look at the wall and see with your side vision people praying on hearing those screams, because it sounded horrible. His scream was unbearable..."

"He stood there for a couple of minutes, turned around, and began arguing. They took him and started beating him somewhere behind my back. He squealed like a child. I was really afraid to turn around, so I just stood there."

"One of these detainees in the courtyard resisted the RUVB officers, I gather. He got beaten very roughly with rubber sticks."

Interviewees point out that ambulance personnel who were called in emergency cases mostly disapproved of the actions of the police. However,

there is occasional testimony of positive attitudes toward the police on the part of individual paramedics.

"There was an ambulance crew sitting there, and they were all in there giggling together with these OMON guys. It was a joke of the sort: "guys, try to punch neatly, so that we don't need to drive them anywhere".

20:00 • 24:00

In the evening, the number of detainees brought to the RUVD increased significantly. Over time, the OMON police got harsher in their actions.

"They took people, and you could hear them beating them. Swearing with dirty language, too. The OMON arrived and brought new people. They were harsh with them and began to be harsh with us, too."

When getting off the paddy wagons people were forced to run through a 'corridor' formed by 7-8 officers who beat them as hard as they could with batons all over their bodies. After that, the OMON threw people on the wet ground near the wall or put them against the wall in stress positions and continued to batter the new arrivals with batons and feet.

"They throw us onto the ground and shout: "Run!" We ran about five meters under the batons. We got to the other side of the paddy wagon and they told us to lie face down, into the mud, into the puddles: "Hands behind your head! Down!"

"We were asked to quickly run out of the vehicle. We ran out and were told where to lie down, but before that they arranged a "corridor of shame." There were several OMON officers standing there; there were about 7-8 of them in the courtyard. They beat up a couple of people along the way, and the rest of us were put on the ground."

In total, there were from 8 to 10 OMON police in the courtyard, who made sure that people standing or lying near the wall did not move. They constantly used obscene language and made threats to the detainees. The people who tried to look back or failed to keep their feet wide enough, in the view of the OMON officers, were brutally beaten. Some of those standing against the wall were moved and forced to lie down so that their heads were in a puddle.

"One guy got yelled at, 'Why are your feet spread so little?'" And he runs up to him and kicks him with his boot into the side of his body. The guy groaned for half an hour after that kick."

"If someone was shifting, they could come over, and throw their hands on him. They were beating someone very hard, then they stopped. There was one guy... he was constantly looking around; he didn't want to lie down straight. They warned him at first, and then they started beating him."

"One guy stood on the far side of the wall, he turned around, and the warrant officer or one of the officers noticed that. This is the kind of audacity they don't forgive. They took him to another wall and started beating him there. I heard the phrases "hit him, hit him again!"

"One of the men saw how they put a piece of wood behind a man's knee joints and tried to break his legs. While we were still lying on the ground, I heard the man next to me wheeze, having a heart episode from those terrible screams."

About every two hours the police forced the people lying and standing to swap places. Detainees were forced to lie with their heads and bodies pressed tightly against broken asphalt with rocks sticking out, causing severe pain, and bleeding. At approximately 21.00-22.00, about 3 people were lying on the ground and 20-30 people were standing against the wall, with the number of people constantly increasing. Eyewitnesses report that the area along all the walls of the RUVD was packed with people, one wall being approximately 30 meters long.

"They tested our willpower; this is completely abnormal. You stand there for 1.5 or 2 hours. They tell you: "Swap places," and you lie down on the ground, on the asphalt. And you lie there for two hours. Your forehead is all covered in blood, your knees are bleeding, because of the asphalt... your elbows are bleeding."

All officers at the RUVD wore balaclavas and had practically no insignia on their uniforms. Some detainees point out that one member of the RUVD leadership and a warrant officer, who did not hide their faces, were particularly cruel.

"He asked to go to the toilet, and at that moment a man with a tattoo came into the courtyard. He heard this request, grabbed the guy, threw him onto the asphalt and ordered the warrant officer to beat

him. He punched him in the back, in the legs, and in the buttocks. He struck him with sadism, the guy screamed at first, then he strained his voice and wheezed. The warrant officer was already tired of beating him, but the tattooed man ordered him to continue the strokes, and he continued. All the staff really tried hard, and they understood what they were doing. They even competed to see who could hit the hardest."

Attempts to communicate with the officers or requests were immediately thwarted and punished by beatings and humiliation.

"Whoever complained, they just took them to a corner and started beating them. One guy started arguing: "Let me talk to a lawyer." They replied: "What kind of lawyer do you want?" They took him to a corner, beat him and pissed on him."

In addition, people who carried any protest or other "forbidden" symbols at the time of detention were subjected to harsher torture.

"There was a young guy, about 20 years old, with an A.C.A.B. sweatshirt. He got into real trouble through that A.C.A.B. sweatshirt, his face was smashed. And his white wristband, when the officer was cutting it off he swung the knife so hard that he also cut his ear."

Gradually, they started to move the detainees to the cell. At this point, their belongings were confiscated, people were forced to strip naked and do squats. During all these procedures inside the building, the police continued to beat the detainees.

"And as he was taking me there, he started hitting me – I'm walking face down and he's punching me in the face from below. 3 - 5 times, I don't remember exactly. Before the inspection, they put me up against the wall again, feet twice as wide as my shoulders, and I got a couple more blows too, I guess. Then they knocked me down, this warrant officer sat on me, apparently... I felt that he was sitting on me, 100-110 kilograms, and he started beating me again, not in the face, however, but in the kidney area. I got another 3 to 5 blows, and he started yelling again, "Will you act up again? Will you?"

The pre-trial detention cell was a 3 × 3 meters room designed to accommodate 4 persons. Initially, at around 22:00, such cells held 5-6 people, but as time went on, about 30 people were placed in one cell. People were kept in extremely overcrowded room which lacked oxygen.

Some detainees continued to stand along the walls, with many of them wearing summer clothes in which they had been arrested, while it was very cold outside. The officers were extremely aggressive in responding to requests to move the freezing people inside.

"One man asked to be taken to a cell. An officer approached him and started beating him, but he still repeated his request. So, another officer joined, and they took that man somewhere, and then we heard him scream. They didn't bring him back. Some others were also taken away. We even heard stun guns, and it was even scarier."

Some people in the cells and near the walls outside began to faint. There was no medical aid provided, but the officers used stun guns to bring them around. The officers agreed to call an ambulance only in extreme cases when the person appeared to be almost dying.

"He was lying unconscious, and they simply punched him with a taser, just for fun. It was clear that they were poking the unconscious body with a stun gun."

"He felt bad. He's shaking, his feet are going pit-a-pat, he's shaking all over, he can't speak. I turn around and say: "Let me call the doctors, I know what's wrong with him." They tell me: "You don't know anything." They hit him with a truncheon and put him back."

"I see that he is starting to feel bad. We managed to draw their attention and asked them to take him out. Two people carried him out by the arms and legs and laid him in the corridor. Then, when these guys returned to the cell, they said that OMON police were walking around there, joking: "Maybe let's raise him with a baton or a stun gun?"

When the detainees asked the police to inform their families about their whereabouts, they either refused rudely or assured them that they would do so, but they did nothing.

At approximately 23:00, the families of the detainees began to gather near the RUVD building, about 20 people in total. They tried to clarify the whereabouts of their family members as well as file missing persons reports as they could not get information about them anywhere.

The RUVD officers perceived the gathering of relatives outside the building as an attempt to storm it: they began to put out the lights, take additional weapons and call for reinforcement.

"A RUVD officer ran in and started shouting: "Lights out!" As I understood, either relatives of the detainees or some ordinary people came to the RUVD building that night, and the police thought that the building would be stormed. They turned out the lights everywhere, grabbed the shields and all the detainees. They lay them in the corridor, hit them with a baton a couple times and told them to lie quietly. They also called the OMON."

Soon OMON came to the walls of the RUVD and arrested all those present and took them to other places of detention in Minsk.

August 11, 2020

"It's just a never-ending, never-ending helter-skelter of violence."

From the victims' statements

On the night of August 10-11, 2020, torture and ill-treatment continued in Tsentralnoye RUVD. It was two-folded. On the one hand, people were kept in inhumane conditions in cramped and overcrowded cells. On the other hand, detainees continued to be beaten and abused in the courtyard. Some former detainees note that the OMON officers were most likely under the influence of some psychotropic substances or alcohol.

"I saw that the OMON policemen's eyes were strangely shining, so I'm sure that they were under psychotropic substances. They became irritated by sounds, such as signals or beeps, and began beating people."

00:00 • 04:00

Former detainees who were in the cells say that the cells were very overcrowded, it was unbearably hot there, and people had to take clothes off. Some fainted from lack of oxygen, beatings, and fatigue. Those who fainted were dragged out into the corridor and kicked in the groin or stepped on their limbs. That's how they were brought back to their senses.

"...The room of about 3 by 3 meters, the maximum number of people there during the whole time, all night, was 26...The problem there was that it was really very hot. The walls were simply wet. In general, I can handle the heat well, but I just took off my clothes there, I was almost naked, wearing only my shorts, because it was impossible to be there."

"When they put me in the cell, there were a lot of people there, and stuffed air. I knocked and asked them to open the window, but they refused. I sat down on the floor and began to faint. Then I don't remember anything, I open my eyes — and I'm lying in the corridor, people walking over me, stepping on my arms. I had a lot of pain on the left inner side of my leg near the groin. I heard the phrase: "Kick him in the balls!" Look, he's come to his senses, kick him one more time." I tried to get up, but I couldn't. I had a headache and the little finger on my left hand was numb."

No medical assistance was provided to anyone. People with obvious serious injuries continued to be beaten, and they tried to cause maximum suffering by hitting in the sore spots. They tortured people with batons and tasers. People with tattoos or wearing clothes with national symbols were tortured with the highest level of cruelty and abuse.

"And they beat him with batons on the sore spots. He had a bad leg, and they stood on it and hit it... They beat him with both a baton and a taser."

"There was another guy. They assumed that he was gay and beat him really badly calling him a "faggot." At some point he became quiet, they said there was a problem, and they took him away somewhere."

"The security officers questioned people with tattoos. Some guy was forced to do push-ups, he refused, and one of the officers, with a burr, with a village accent (I also noticed that he had a hooked nose, he was tall and wiry), held out a baton and said: "Suck it."

The police continued to abuse people in the courtyard of the RUVD all night long. Detainees were forced to either stand against a wall for several hours with their arms raised or lie face down on the asphalt with their elbows pressed to the ground. At the same time, the beatings and insults continued; some people were taken around the corner and severely beaten. The night was quite cold, many of the detainees were in light summer clothes and were very cold. While the torture continued in the courtyard, people were taken

one by one to the RUVB building for interrogation. Some of the detainees were minors.

"There were about 20–30 people standing... At first, we were placed facing the wall for about two hours. You had to keep your hands up. You get tired, but you can't put them down. If you lower them, they beat you... They tell you: "Shift position." You lie down on the ground, on the asphalt. And you lie there for two hours.

Your forehead is all covered in blood, your knees are bleeding, because of the asphalt... your elbows are bleeding. Because you need to press your elbows to the ground. Lie there for two hours. So, they shift you from the wall to the ground and from the ground to the wall."

"It was terribly cold there. Some people simply couldn't stand it. They got very sick."

"There were even two teenagers. They were picked up late at night by their parents. 16-year-olds. They were really young."

04:00 • 08:00

The beatings and abuse of the detainees continued until the morning. Some people were taken around the corner or to a separate room in the police department and tortured with extreme cruelty. The rest of the detainees heard screams and blows of batons coming from different rooms in the building. The victims state that paramedics were present at the RUVB during this time.

"There was some door from where you could just hear the sounds of a baton, a taser and screams. I don't know where it was. It is clear that this was either a cell for extracting confessions or something like that. It could be heard throughout the entire corridor."

"We could hear the clang of the rubber baton. Claps. After these events I can distinguish it from other sounds."

The detainees continued to be taken to the RUVB building. In the corridors, the police drew up reports containing the same information. People were photographed by officers in civilian clothes. At the RUVB, detainees continued to be kept in overcrowded cells. The ventilation in the cells was not on; people became sick from the lack of oxygen and heat.

"We all had the same thing written in the report: I was on Niamiha Street at 21:00, threw stones at the OMON, and shouted "Long live Belarus." No one was working out where each person had been caught, or at what hour."

"The detention cell looked creepy. There were 10 - 12 people on these 8 square meters. And it continued until the morning. There was a closed pipe, you could sit on the pipe, three people could fit there."

"By morning there were 25 of us in the cell. There is also an interesting system there. There was some kind of exhaust hood above the door. When it wasn't on, the hood, it was impossible to breathe there, as the cell was designed for much fewer people."

08:00 • 12:00

"All this was accompanied by threats; they told us that we would not make it [from the RUVD to the detention center], that they would kill us on the way."

From the victim's testimony

In the morning, the detainees began to be prepared for transportation. They were taken out of the cells into the corridor, hands handcuffed, and loaded into paddy wagons.

"In the morning, we were taken out into the corridor, stood along the wall, our names were called, we were handcuffed and taken to paddy wagons. My handcuffs were tightened very tightly, just like everyone else's."

"At 8 o'clock we were taken out into the corridor, placed facing the wall, standing along the wall. The woman officer did not have a balaclava; all the other officers had balaclavas on their faces. They walked around and beat some people in the corridor. Either their superiors or whoever were walking along the corridor, and they spoke out harshly: "Yes, you all need to be ruined, shot, you're all...". In short, they used a lot of obscene language."

Around noon, a paddy wagon arrived at the RUVD, and the detainees were put in it. Among them was a man with broken legs; he was carried into the

paddy wagon. The vehicle was overcrowded; it stood near the RUVD for about 20 minutes, but the ventilation was not turned on. During loading, the detainees were beaten.

"There were 31 of us there, and one of us was carried out of the building, he had broken legs. He couldn't even walk on his own; two people carried him out. It was very hot, we stood there for 15-20 minutes before we started moving."

At the same time, torture of detainees continued in the corridors of the police department.

12:00 • 16:00

"There were uniformed policemen standing on every second step of this staircase. All of them had batons, and they were speeding you up, so to speak. I just remember that while you're walking down the stairs, they're beating you with batons."

From the victim's testimony

In the afternoon, the detainees continued to be loaded into paddy wagons and taken away. However, these loadings have become much tougher than previous ones. People were taken through a "corridor" or "staircase of death": officers randomly struck the detainees with batons, kicked, and punched them. Before loading into the paddy wagon, people's hands were strongly tied with plastic construction clamps, leading to unbearable pain and numbness in their hands.

"...When an outsider is present, they... [the RUVD officers] obviously wanted to appear rougher. Like, you, OMON, are such tough guys, but we are also quite some... beasts. I can't imagine how someone can be a normal person at home, and then show his brutal qualities at work."

"When we were being taken through the "corridor of shame," I got hit again. These guys were beating me with fury, because when they led me, they put my hands behind my back as high as possible and tilted my face forward so that I almost had my nose on the floor, but they still thought it was not good enough."

"Then they started taking people out. It was happening very loudly, with screams and yelling. When we were taken into a paddy wagon, it seemed to be done by RUVD officers, but there was an OMON policeman in black uniform standing there."

"They put me up against the wall. They say: "Feet wider apart." I put my feet wider, they don't like it, they say: "Even wider." And they started hitting me on the calves. They just hit me twice with a club."

"The ties were straining my arms really badly. My hands were all blue."

People were forced to run into the paddy wagon with their heads held down. At the same time, the OMON officers who carried out the procedure brutally beat the detainees. Those who fell were beaten even harder, so people continued to run there, even losing their shoes. In the paddy wagon, people were simply thrown onto the floor on top of each other.

"You run [with] your head down as much as possible. If someone feels your head is higher than they want it, they beat you up. It happened that if a person fell while running from the stairs to the paddy wagon, they did not pick him up, but simply beat him on the spot."

"They stuffed us into paddy wagons. They threw us in, roughly speaking. They grabbed us by the scruff of the neck and threw us at each other."

16:00 • 24:00

"The duty officers said: "Let them all die from coronavirus!"

From the victims' statements

"If you don't obey, you'll be standing here for several nights. We will take you not to a cell, but to the forest, we will find your loved ones, we know who your wife is. Everyone will suffer because of you."

From the victim's testimony

In the period from 19:00 to 24:00, paddy new detainees were brought to the RUVD. This time there was a group of motorcyclists among them. People were roughly unloaded by OMON police and laid on the asphalt with their

faces on the ground in the courtyard. People lay there all night under endless beatings from the police. The detainees were brought all night long, the officers beat them, insulted and humiliated them, and forced them to do push-ups, squats and jumps.

"They laid me face down on the asphalt. We lay there for about three hours. They forced me to do push-ups and squats, hit me in the ribs, and walked on my legs. Most of the beating was for white-red-white symbols, for white ribbons."

"...We were on top, going down the stairs, and from above I saw that there were paddy wagons already there and a lot of people were just lying on the asphalt. They put me next to them."

"Then another officer came up and started kicking me in the pelvic area, I was lying on my belly. He kicked me several times in one spot and moved on. Judging by the conversations I heard, he was just bored and needed to entertain himself somehow."

The abuse also took place in the offices of the RUVD: people were beaten, threatened, humiliated, and insulted. The detainees were not allowed to read the reports and other documents; some were forced to sign the reports on their knees. Those who refused to sign were beaten with batons; in the end, people were forced to sign the reports anyway.

"When it was my turn, I was kneeling in front of the table, where the officer just handed me the documents."

"After that, they forced me to go around the office on my hands and knees, punched me in the head several times, then he took a baton and said: "Come with me, you will now sign everything for me." He took me up some stairs and gave me about 10-15 blows with a baton on my legs and arms. I tried to cover my head. The others who stood a little to the side said: "Why are you hitting him on the legs and arms? It's time for the head." When he started to hit the head, I said that I would sign the papers, that's enough. And I signed everything."

Closer to midnight, people, as before, were lined up along the fence with their hands raised. The detainees were forced to unlock their mobile phones. If they refused, they were beaten and threatened with sexual violence. This continued until they gave their phone passwords. For any movement, change of position, request, or turn of the head, the detainees got beaten.

"Those who refused to unlock their mobile phones were beaten with batons until they revealed their passwords."

"When I didn't want to give away the password to the phone, he said that now he would put this stick in my anus. That's it"

"I saw about 50 people there, standing facing the fence: feet spread wide, arms raised above their heads and spread high to the side with their palms turned outward. It looked like a scene from some action movie about terrorism. It looked really terrible."

"If you turn your head, they immediately stop you with punches, kicks, or batons. If someone tried to talk to each other, same thing — they got beaten up."

According to former detainees, some officers filmed the torture on their mobile phones. People were forced to do squats, and were also humiliated in every possible way, forced to sing the anthem. Their human dignity was lowered in every possible way.

"They forced people to squat, whoever was cold there, and they had to do so many squats. And sing the anthem."

"I definitely heard that they were making some kind of video recording for themselves, that is, they were humiliating people and filming some kind of video for themselves, probably they wanted to share it with their colleagues. I also heard some blows, how they beat someone there, forced them to do push-ups and squats."

People who apparently held different political views (carrying white-red-white flags, white bracelets) or had informal appearance (long hair on men, tattoos) were tortured with greater aggression.

"The people who were beaten the most were those who had white-red-white flags, white ribbons, and those who had any traces of wearing ribbons on their hands."

"I actually have quite long hair, they really dug into the long hair, the tattoos, what they signify."

"Those who, as they called them, were 'coordinators', who had some kind of 'Chase' emblems, tattoos, were beaten really brutally."

Among those detained there were many women, and there were minors who were also severely beaten. Women were humiliated, insulted, and threatened with sexual violence. However, they experienced less physical violence than men. In the RUVD, one of the cells was reserved for women.

"They took this 17-year-old guy's phone, forced him to unlock it, and one of the officers saw himself in the video. They punched him in the head and in the face. As a result, they beat him to such an extent that he felt sick and asked for help."

"They said we needed to have our uteruses cut out so we wouldn't reproduce. And that we should be banned from breeding in the first place. They said that they would have a "gang bang" with us now or "you'd be fucked hard."

"...For the first time in my life I thought that it was good that I was a woman. Well, just in contrast. There was all: endless screams, moans, screams, moans, well, this conveyor — it didn't stop, it continued all night. We heard it all and partially saw it with our own eyes."

Many citizens were seriously injured during detention. However, just as earlier, no medical assistance was provided to anyone; people continued to be beaten, despite their medical condition.

"And the OMON officers struck him on the kneecap. It turns out that blew his kneecap off from the reverse side. And, naturally, he immediately began to have convulsions, he could not do anything. He lies there, complaining, and the OMON police walk around and say that he is faking it, and at the same time they force him to stand, kicking his leg so that he spreads his feet wider."

"There was also a man with epileptic seizures among us. And apparently — I could not see it directly, since I had to look at the asphalt, but I heard everything — he was having a seizure. At first, they also walked around, laughing, saying that he was faking it."

August 12, 2020

“...When people were lying on the asphalt, they poured cold water on their lower backs to keep them cold. They pulled out one guy’s hair. They broke people’s fingers; if a person refused to turn the phone on, they broke his fingers. And many people had their foreheads broken, that is, they hit their heads hard against the asphalt.”

From the victim's testimony

On August 12, detainees continued to be brutally beaten, tortured, and kept in inhumane conditions of detention. People were forced to stand along the walls with their arms raised and feet wide apart, facing the wall. Whole body got numb, and some had to stand in such stress positions for 20 hours. Any attempts to move or change position were suppressed by severe beating and shouting by police officers. People were not given water or food and were very rarely taken to the toilet. Thus, one of the former detainees reports that he spent more than 30 hours without food.

The courtyard of the Tsentralnoye RUV D was a special place for torture and ill-treatment of detainees. People got there through a “corridor” of police officers, who punched the new arrivals with batons, feet, and hands.

00:00 • 04:00

“...And my leg folded in half, that is, it cracked in half, I screamed. Later it turned out that he [the officer] tore my ligaments. Ligaments, meniscus, and kneecap.”

From the victim's testimony

All night of August 12 the officers beat, insulted, and threatened detainees. Throughout the night and until approximately 16:00, people had to be in stress positions — arms up on the wall, feet wider than shoulders. If a person changed his pose, the officers beat him on the legs and other parts of the body.

“At the police department, they punched me in my legs to spread them wider and on the inside of my legs and punched me in the kidneys

from behind. They beat me simply because over time my hands would gradually lower on their own. In this position they became numb. You just don't feel them, and they slipped down on their own. I could not control that. That is, your hands are so numb that you simply can't feel them anymore. They were sliding down the fence."

"We later calculated that we stood there for about 20 hours. When we stood at the RUVD all night and all day, all this was accompanied by constant beatings and our screams of pain."

"...Those who could not stand any longer, or their arms fell, or they started falling on the ground, got beaten even harder."

"What was constantly present everywhere — both at the RUVD and at Akrestsina — was constant beatings, constant swearing and constant humiliation."

Physical violence was accompanied by psychological violence. One of the ways of humiliation was the demand to sing the official anthem of the Republic of Belarus. At the same time, those who sang "poorly" got beaten, thus also receiving physical punishment.

"...We were forced to sing the anthem of the Republic of Belarus. Those who sang poorly were beaten with batons. Well, we all repeated it in chorus many times, if somebody missed a line, we had to start again. Well, then we sang the whole anthem about five times. I completely forgot the words, absolutely, that is, I only sang the first lines. I tried to repeat the same verses, trying to hum more to the beat, once they hit me on the back with a baton, saying "Don't be silent, sing, bitch."

"Of course, we were insulted and humiliated all the time. There was another particularly angry OMON officer; their boss, apparently, or whoever it was, who forced us to sing anthems. We sang the anthem of Belarus, and he forced us to shout: "I love OMON!"

"He made him sing the national anthem. And when he didn't know what words were next, he beat him even harder. He shouted that he really didn't know the words, he begged, but got beaten. Then an OMON officer, some guy in charge, the toughest one, forced the whole yard to sing. He made the guys, who were lying on the asphalt with their faces on the asphalt, sing the anthem in chorus, and if he didn't like the way they sang, he shouted: "Unsatisfactory! I'll be back

in 15 minutes, and you'll have an exam!" Then he returned — and they sang again. He beat some people. Other OMON officers beat other detainees. There were constant screams."

Many detainees testify that they were doused with cold water so that they would freeze even more and get sick.

"They found a two-liter bottle of Mineral water on me. He opened it and let me smell it: "Are you saying that this is water?!" You bitches wanted to set us on fire!" And he poured this water on my head."

Until the morning, people continued to stay in the courtyard of the police department. Some were forced to stand near the wall with their arms up, feet wider than shoulders, while others lay on the asphalt, and the officers kicked them in the groin.

"It felt like it was 3 or 4 a.m., it was still dark. From then until the morning, we stood in a "stretch" position with our hands behind our heads; we stood like that for about 8 or 10 hours."

"...The guys also had their feet spread apart, and the officers said: "What? You think it's a spa resort? No, this is not a spa resort."

"Maybe 90, or, perhaps, 100 people were lying face down on the asphalt."

"...They punched me in the back, I got a couple of blows. And I also got punched in the groin a couple of times. You had to lie with your hands behind your head, your face on the asphalt, your legs had to be spread very wide. That is, one of them would come up and hit you in the groin, so hard that you wouldn't be able to put your legs together for a couple of days."

04:00 • 08:00

"They took some alcohol and poured it on him, as I understood from the smell, and they said: "That's it, we're going to fucking burn you."

From the victim's testimony

Closer to the morning, the detainees began to be taken to see the investigator to sign forged reports of administrative violations. The police did not let them read the papers; people were intimidated by beatings and beaten for trying to read the paperwork. Refusals to sign the reports, or requests to add something to them, were followed by severe beating. At this time, the detainees continued to stand in the "stretch" position or lie face down on the asphalt in the courtyard.

"They would call out a name, take this person to the investigator, and he showed with his finger where to sign. When someone, including me, asked if we could at least read the report, he said: "You can read it if you want, but here's the comrade who can speed you up real quick." That's it. We stood near the fence and could hear, when someone tried to read the report or express their disagreement with its contents, they immediately got beaten, and as a result, everyone signed the reports anyway. Absolutely every one of us signed the reports (we asked when we were at Akrestsina together). It's just that whoever didn't want to sign was beaten, and they signed anyway, while others signed right away. Hearing these cries of pain, I signed immediately. I realized that they would continue to beat me until I signed."

"Then they put us facing the wall. Later they called us one by one to sign the reports. While we were standing there, they randomly approached us and punched us. They pointed at some people saying they were protest leaders, and, well, they were beaten even harder. I understood that I couldn't say no to signing because they would beat me up."

In the courtyard, people were beaten until they fell on the asphalt. Then they were forced to lie in the same position with their face on the asphalt or stand against the wall in a "stretch" position.

"When you first get into the courtyard, they immediately approach you in a crowd and start beating you until you fall. When you fall, then they start asking: "What have you been arrested for?" This is also accompanied by blows with a baton. They stepped on my feet and tried to twist my ankle so that it would hurt. Then they put you face down on the asphalt and press on the back of your head. But it didn't last very long, because there were a lot of people and they had to keep an eye on everyone, so they just left me lying on the asphalt. Periodically, an officer would pass by and give me several blows to the legs or back."

"After some time, they also put me against the wall — I had to keep my head or hands on the wall and stand like this. At this time, they walk through the rows and randomly hit someone, or scare them, either hit, or shout — something like that."

According to the witnesses who were at the Tsentralnoye RUV D that day, there was a 14-year-old teenager among them. He also got beaten by the officers. The guy shouted that he was 14 years old, that he was a minor, but they continued to kick him and beat him with batons.

"...They brought him in and beat him for a very long time. And they beat him for probably 25 minutes, he screamed, he shouted: "I'm 14 years old, I'm underage!"

08:00 • 12:00

"There they put a helmet on the guy's head and beat him with a baton and a taser. There were people who had their hair cut, specifically by OMON, during the arrest, and their clothes were painted on and their heads were painted. With spray paint."

From the victim's testimony

In the morning, they took people into paddy wagons for further transportation to the temporary detention center and offenders isolation center. During loading into the vehicles, detainees were beaten, insulted, and threatened. People were stuffed into paddy wagons so tightly that it was impossible to breathe normally.

"Our paddy wagon arrived, and they said: "This is the group." He calls your last name, you shout out your full name, date of birth and run into the paddy wagon. Along the way they punch you, try to trip you up, and knock you off your feet. If you fall, then perhaps you won't be able to get up, as those who fell were beaten really badly."

"In the paddy wagon they made us kneel with our backs to each other. The officers said: "That's it, we'll deliver you now, and that's it for you, you're screwed." Your poor parents." That's the kind of sons that you guys have."

"...Yes, we lacked oxygen in the paddy wagon. I was starting to freak out there, getting dizzy, having some kind of sparks in my eyes. We just started tearing up this paddy wagon, started knocking on the walls, trying to break down the door, hoping they would at least give us oxygen. ... No response."

The conditions in the cells where the detainees spent the night were inhumane: they were so overcrowded that there was not enough oxygen to breathe. People were not given food or water until 16:00, and all requests for medical assistance were ignored.

"There were 22 of us there at once, but then two were taken away. That is, 20 people in a room of 9 by 11 tiles. That is, it's about 5-something square meters, I counted later. And we sat there with no water, no food, until about 16:00."

"That is, no windows, no anything, just an iron door with holes at the bottom, and when the ventilation turned on, we all walked up to the door and breathed. It was already probably 60 degrees there, that is, where the tiles were on the wall under the lamp, you could see this steam, like above the asphalt when it's hot. No one responded to knocking or requests for water or to call a doctor. They ignored all knocking from our cell and the cells next to ours. That is, we were there until about 16:00."

12:00 • 16:00

"... People were beaten with sticks to make them hurry up, they laughed: ha-ha, like, "Where are you running, can't you see the van?" And I'd like to stress, we could see nothing but feet. I was already getting in, but as I had no laces in my shoes, I was stumbling, and as a result, one of the shoes fell somewhere under the van. But I got in."

From the victim's testimony

The detainees continued to be loaded into paddy wagons. Before this, they were taken through the "corridors" of police, who brutally beat them.

"These were the so-called corridors. This is when policemen with batons line up on both sides, and you must run through this corridor

into the paddy wagon. That is, their task is to hit you as much and as hard as possible at this moment, and your task, as far as I get it, is to run without stumbling and try to get as few blows as possible. Those who were good at it, could receive just a couple of blows. And whoever wasn't, received more, and God forbid you fall. No one would help you get up; they would strike you until you manage to get up and run further."

16:00 • 20:00

"...They were saying 'we're going to fuck you up here now'..."

From the victims' statements

People were still being taken to the Tsentralnoye RUVD. A new stream of detainees went through the same abuse: the "corridor", severe beatings, insults and intimidation, and threats of sexual violence. Some detainees, selected at random, were required to unlock their phones. These demands were accompanied by threats of beating and "cutting off a finger."

"There were a lot of people at the Tsentralnoye RUVD already. I ended up in the general bunch, and then more people arrived, and there was more beating. They just beat everyone, especially the younger ones. There were girls there too. I told them there to get the girls out of there. They beat me up for that.

"They also beat people constantly during transfers. Everyone. They stroke blows on the arms, but mostly on the legs, calves, or buttocks."

"I'm an old man, I had to bend over. If something was wrong, they would beat us. That's how it all happened."

"After that, I started receiving various kinds of threats, that is, they surrounded me in a very tight circle: they were all around, and I was inside. They just started pulling me in different directions, each one towards himself. Then one of them, as I understood, their senior, said that he would now cut off my finger to make it easier for them to unlock my phone every time. I told him that if he wanted to do this, then I certainly wouldn't be able to stop him, and I simply extended my hand to him. Then he hit me in the face."

20:00 • 24:00

"That's enough, stop! You already did some beating today, it's my turn now."

From the victim's testimony

In the evening, even more detainees were brought in; the inflow of paddy wagons did not stop. People were still beaten, interrogated in the police department building and forced to sign fabricated reports. Later, people were taken out to the courtyard. There, the detainees were beaten again and, closer to nighttime, taken back to the RUVD building, and placed in overcrowded cells until the morning.

"They continued beating us in the building. I think they were the same OMON officers who transferred us from one room to another. Later we were taken to another room; there were many desks, with a police officer sitting at each one. And they, as far as I saw, wrote up the reports. They put us on our knees, forced us to take everything out of our backpacks and sign the reports."

"We were taken outside. We were not allowed to look around. At the same time, they didn't miss the chance to punch us a little while passing by. We stood near the wall for some time."

"We were taken back to the RUVD building and placed in a cell. Such a concrete box. Yes, there were people there, there were about seven people there; 7 or 10, I don't remember exactly. And the three of us. They didn't take us to the toilet enough. The guys kept asking and knocking. We spent about 17 hours there. And during this time, we were taken to the toilet only three times."

August 13, 2020

"...A man was tortured in the next room. There were sounds of a taser and blows of batons. Two blows with a taser, then two blows with a baton and taser again. The man howled in pain."

From the victim's testimony

Many former detainees say that August 13 was their last day in the Tsentralnoye RUVD. The conditions in the cells did not change: some people were beaten to get passwords for their phones; they were still limited in water, they were not fed, and they were rarely taken to the toilet.

After lunch, some of the detainees were loaded into paddy wagons and taken to the Akrestsina detention center. Some were released without reports.

"...Later a man in plain clothes came and said: "These are out. We are releasing you without reports, we hope you won't go out to the streets again" ... He said: "I hope there are no grievances between us, no complaints about us, and we part peacefully"."

CONSEQUENCES: INJURIES AND TRAUMAS

"I was examined. Got into the regional hospital with a preliminary diagnosis: closed head injury, spinal fracture. They didn't confirm my brain injury there because the doctors, having learned that I was from a temporary detention facility and that I had been beaten by the police, treated me like a leper. I insisted that they include every hematoma in their report. I was diagnosed with a closed fracture of the spine, contusion of the pubic bone, extensive hematomas on the body (buttocks, calves), contusion of the chest, contusion of the collarbone, of the shoulder joint, etc."

From the victim's testimony

As we analyze the physical injuries suffered by people on August 9-13, 2020, it is important to note that their range is very broad. Often the first beatings began during arrest and did not stop until release from the place of detention. Therefore, it is difficult to distinguish between injuries received directly during arrest and during detention at Tsentralnoye RUVD. The situation might have been further complicated by the lack of timely medical care. And if provided, it was either not complete, or only in the most severe cases.

In places where medical care was provided, from August 9 to August 13, in most cases, the medical staff carried out a full physical examination to rule out a possibility of damage to internal organs. The risk of such injuries was very high given the force and intensity of the detainee beatings that occurred from August 9 to 13. Among the questionnaires studied, six people indicate such damage.

"Tests showed that there was something wrong with my kidneys. Roughly speaking, they were broken."

"I was examined by a urological surgeon. He found a bruise on me — a small one above my pubis. After the examination, they decided to leave me in hospital. They did a urine test — there were red blood cells in the urine, in general, they said that these were drops of blood. [...] Microhematuria — something like this... They admitted me to the urology unit with a diagnosis: closed abdominal injury, bruise of the bladder and something else."

The main injuries described by the victims were extensive hematomas, abrasions, and bruises of various parts of the body.

"My buttocks were very badly damaged, they were really blue, and it was painful to sit down and stand up for a long time. My ribs also hurt, but it's good that no ribs were broken."

"Only bruises, contusions, and abrasions. I had all of that. Well, the longest of the bruises was on the leg, well, approximately 20 centimeters. [...] There were even dents on the leg here and there."

Among more severe injuries, the ones most often mentioned are closed head injuries of different severity, fractures of the nose, ribs, arms, legs, spinal contusions, injuries of the shoulder girdle, and perforation of the eardrum. Victims who had their hands tightly fastened with plastic ties had wrist injuries, and many of them report subsequent numbness in their fingers. One of the survivors explains that he had to train his arm to be able to use it again.

"We contacted a trauma surgeon. He documented contusions of the chest, ribs, hips, and buttocks, and a slight concussion. After that, we visited an otolaryngologist to have my ear checked. There I was diagnosed with a ruptured eardrum. At first the doctor thought that there was a chance that it would heal in a month, but as it turned out later, it required a surgery."

"There were multiple bruises on the arms, forearms, neck, back, and legs. [...] Some persisted after a week, two, or three, then they all disappeared, as far as hematomas are concerned. Small abrasions from the handcuffs and construction ties that were on the wrists – they lasted for a very long time and wouldn't go away. A bruised finger – greetings from the RUVĐ – still bothers me today [as of November 2020]. This is the little finger of the left hand, it doesn't hurt, it bends, it's not swollen, but when you move it, or if you touch it, there is discomfort, that is, it's not okay yet."

There were people with chronic diseases among our interviewees. When they informed the officers about them, they either ignored them or beat them even harder or otherwise increased the pressure on the detainees. Such conduct of the police led to a deterioration in people's health.

"I have a not very pleasant thing about my health that I informed the officers about. But, by the way, they deliberately started holding me and hitting me in this exact spot. I don't have a spleen. And I said don't hit me too hard. I said: "You can kick me in the face, do whatever you want, but don't touch the ribs, because the spleen is on the left and there are stitches there, naturally. Not one, not two, not twenty stitches, there's a lot more."

The result of the beatings was "a small tear in the suture in the area of the spleen."

It is worth adding that some people did not seek medical help. Some say they thought their injuries were minor and didn't see the need for medical care. Others feared that it could be followed by another arrest.

For people's physical health, the situation was often complicated by the fact that they were denied local community-based care or received insufficient medical care. Therefore, people wasted time looking for places where they would receive the necessary assistance.

"At the local clinic I described everything, how it all started, but for some reason the doctor didn't want to listen to me very carefully, he just wouldn't listen to me. I am telling him about the nature of the injuries, but he ignores me. OK. He prescribed me some ointments, but my leg hurts very much, it hurts very badly, I can't figure out what's wrong with it. He tells me it's a contusion. And my finger hurts, too... Well, it's a small crack there, no big deal. And then I went to [another hospital]."

In the above case, the injury turned out to be much more serious than the doctor initially indicated. The victim was diagnosed with a fractured ankle, a fractured phalanx, and a closed head injury.

In addition to physical injuries, people also suffered mentally. Nine victims describe their psychological state after the events during their arrest and detention in the Tsentralnoye RUVD. The most frequently mentioned fear of people in uniform, people in balaclavas, fear of vans, paddy wagons and police cars. Some interviewees say that at first it was difficult for them to leave home for fear of being arrested again.

"In principle, it's scary to go outside, because it feels as if they can just grab you from the street, regardless of where you are and where you are heading, and all this happens again. If a blue van, or a paddy wagon, or just a police car passes by, it immediately stresses you out, as you subconsciously expect that it will stop, they will get you, and everything will repeat again."

"At first, probably the first two weeks, I was extremely paranoid, I couldn't even leave the house. In addition, all the courtyards of the entire city were constantly patrolled, and all policemen, including traffic cops, began to wear balaclavas, it was quite scary."

At least one person was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Another victim says his panic attacks have intensified.

"My panic attacks have intensified, I haven't had a single morning without them, although I take medicines, but I wake up and I am in panic and fear. It doesn't go away until I get my day going."

Some victims note that their physical injuries took quite a long time to heal—from several months to half a year. Psychologically, it became much more difficult for people to contact police, and this fear remained for quite a long time (the most recent interview took place in September 2022).

PERPETRATORS OF TORTURE

IN THE TSENTRALNOYE RUVD OF MINSK

“All officers really tried hard, and they understood what they were doing. They even competed to see who could hit the hardest.”

From the victim's testimony

Along with the identified officers, we consider it necessary to name the top officials responsible for mass torture in Belarus, and in the Tsentralnoye RUVD in particular, as well as for the impunity of these officers.

1. The person holding the post of President of the Republic of Belarus, **Lukashenko, Alexander Grigoryevich**.
2. Former Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus **Karaev, Yury Khadzhimuratovich** (June 11, 2019 - October 29, 2020).
3. Former Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus **Barsukov, Aleksander Petrovich** (2017 - 2020).
4. Former Head of the Main Department of Internal Affairs of Minsk City Executive Committee **Kubakov, Ivan Vladimirovich** (since October 29, 2020 — Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus).

5. Commander of the OMON GUVD of the Minsk City Executive Committee **Balaba, Dmitry Vladimirovich**.
6. Former Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus **Konyuk, Aleksander Vladimirovich** (2011 - 2020).
7. Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus **Shved, Andrey Ivanovich**.
8. Former Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus **Noskevich, Ivan Danilovich** (November 10, 2015 - March 11, 2021).
9. Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus **Gora, Dmitry Yuryevich** (since March 11, 2021).
10. Prosecutor of the city of Minsk **Lavrukhin, Oleg Vladimirovich**.
11. Prosecutor of the Tsentralny District of Minsk **Kondarevich, Oleg Vasilievich** (since September 9, 2019).

It should be noted that the process of identification of persons involved in human rights violations and torture in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk from August 9 to 13, 2020 was complicated by a number of factors: most of the officers were wearing balaclavas or medical masks, and it is very difficult to identify them for this reason; many of the victims remain in Belarus and preferred not to participate in the identification process for fear of reprisals; more than three years have passed since the events, so many details and images have been erased from the memory of the interviewees.

However, despite these reasons, the victims were able to identify some officers who took part in torture and ill-treatment at the RUVD during these days. Also, to collect data, the authors analyzed information from Telegram channels (including deleted accounts) and websites¹ published in 2020 and containing information about the officers of the Tsentralnoye RUVD and the crimes they committed.

1 Websites:

<https://luka.zone/>

<https://ekrp.org/>

<https://blackmap.org/>

Telegram channels:

Dzikae Palyavanne (Wild Hunt)

Belpol

Punishers of Belarus Bydeanon

Black Book of Belarus

All violations

Database beawareofthem.org

Punishers of Belarus

In interviews with human rights defenders, the victims emphasized that it was not only the RUVD policemen who beat and ill-treated the detainees. There was also OMON, road traffic police and police officers from other RUVDs of Minsk. This inquiry did not involve the process of identifying such officers.

Here is [a list of employees of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk](#), who most likely participated in mass torture, but were not identified by the victims interviewed.



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

If you know or recognize any of the officers on this list or in the photos published below, please contact the International Committee to Investigate Torture in Belarus.

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

email: contact@torturesbelarus2020.org

Telegram: [@ICITB2020_contact](https://t.me/@ICITB2020_contact)

We guarantee maximum security in communication.

It is important to note that all officers of the Tsentralnoye RUVD, who were on its territory during those days, were involved in committing crimes against detainees in one way or another. After a thorough investigation of all their actions, they will be held accountable for their crimes.

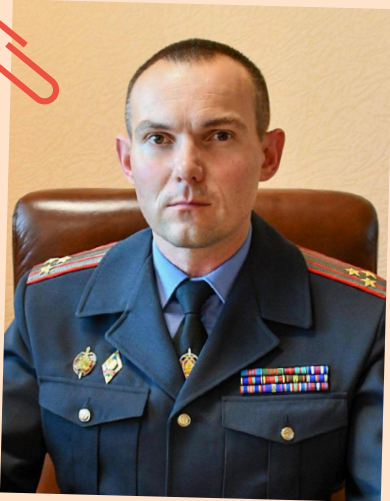
ДЕЛО N° Tsentralnoye RCND

List of the officers
suspected of torture

2024г.

Хранить __ лет

N° 001



FULL NAME

**Shakhlai,
Artur Vladimirovich**

position, rank

Head of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

He supervised the actions of the officers on the territory of the Tsentralnoye RUVD. He organized the process of mass beatings and torture in the police department he was in charge of.

He participated in the suppression of protests after August 9, 2020.

N° 002



FULL NAME

**Basov,
Alexander Vladimirovich**

position, rank

deputy head of the Tsentralnoye RUVD, head of the public safety police

Involvement in torture

He supervised the actions of the officers on the territory of the Tsentralnoye RUVD. He organized the process of mass beatings and torture in the police department he was in charge with.



FULL NAME

**Levoshko,
Andrey Romanovich**

position, rank

head of the Operational Duty Service of the Tsentralnoye RUVD, inspector of the Enforcement and Prevention Unit

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"He was holding the guy who was beaten in the courtyard of the Tsentralnoye RUVD. That occurred on August 9, approximately between 16:00 and 18:00. I recognize him, this is exactly the guy who gave us the nightmare. He beat a guy with a baton, and the guy just asked if he could sit down on the ground. "

"He beat people detained by traffic police officers in the courtyard of the Tsentralnoye RUVD on August 9, 10, 11, 2020, forced them to sing the anthem, beat them with a baton and kicked them. Pumped up physique, periodically looked out of the window of the office on the first floor. "

N° 004



FULL NAME

**Shakolo,
Alexander Viktorovich**

position, rank

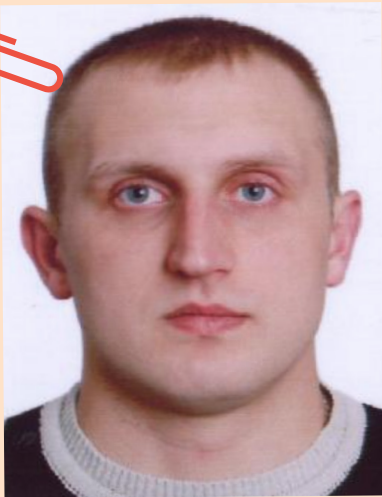
deputy head of the Criminal Investigation Department, criminal police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

He carried out illegal arrests of civilians on August 9, 10, and 11, 2020.

He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

N° 005



FULL NAME

**Skurat,
Piotr Valerievich**

position, rank

detective officer of the Department for Drug Control and Combating Human Trafficking, criminal police, Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"...A familiar face, I recognize it... I saw him there, I remember his smile, it was twisted."

N° 006



FULL NAME

**Khomitsevich,
Alexander Vasilievich**

position, rank

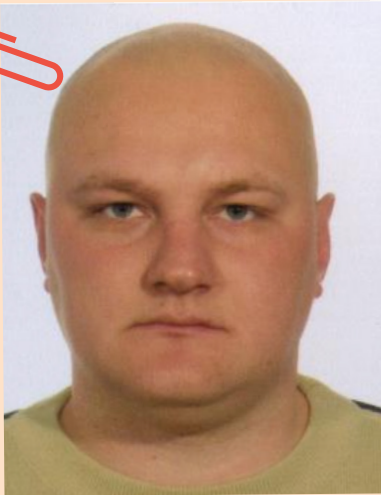
police captain, Criminal Investigation Department,
Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"...I also remember this man, but I believe he had his hair cut shorter back then, it was the eyebrows that I remember well. I think he brought everyone in and out, took everyone out to the courtyard... he had these eyebrows and a short haircut. Almost a number one cut"

N° 007



FULL NAME

**Nakhodko,
Vladimir Tadeushevich**

position, rank

escort policeman, guard group, public security
police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

N° 008



FULL NAME

**Saifulin,
Mikhail Nikolaevich**

position, rank

local police inspector, Enforcement and Prevention Unit, public security police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

Involvement in torture



He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

N° 009



FULL NAME

**Kudravets,
Oleg Viktorovich**

position, rank

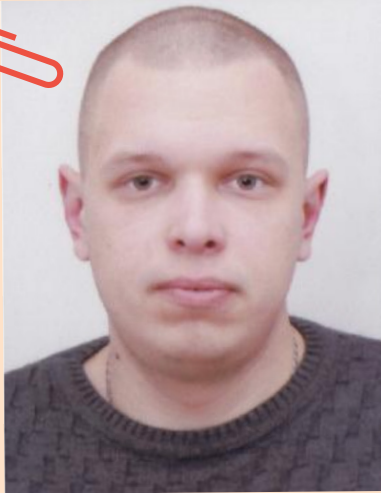
local police inspector, Enforcement and Prevention Unit, Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

N° 010



FULL NAME

**Osipenko,
Sergei Aleksandrovich**

position, rank

criminal investigation officer of the Tsentralnoye
RUVD of Minsk

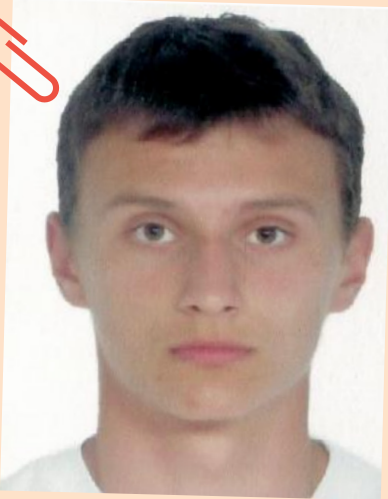
Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"He looks like the guy who was one of the guards. ...He put construction ties on people's hands. He is one of those...there was a "stairway of death". Yes, that's what it was called, there was somebody on every step. He is one of those who groped and searched the detainees after they left the cell... He groped people, put zip ties on their hands, searched, beat the detainees with a police baton, and kicked him."

N° 011



FULL NAME

**Pototski,
Kirill Viktorovich**

position, rank

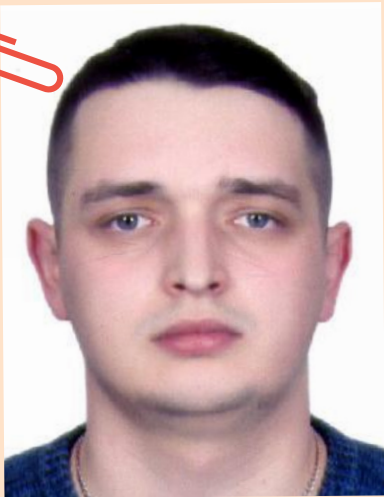
local police inspector, Enforcement and Prevention Unit, public security police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

N° 012



FULL NAME

**Malinovski,
Alexey Aleksandrovich**

position, rank

detective officer, Department for Combating Economic Crimes, criminal police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"He was in the RUVD room along with many other police officers."

N° 013



FULL NAME

**Skarupa,
Denis Sergeevich**

position, rank

police officer, police patrol service company,
public security police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD
of Minsk

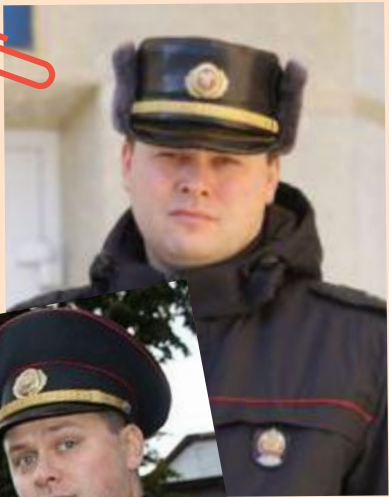
Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"...He looks like one of those who was in the room back then when everyone was brought there."

N° 014



FULL NAME

**Cherniavski,
Alexei Anatolyevich**

position, rank

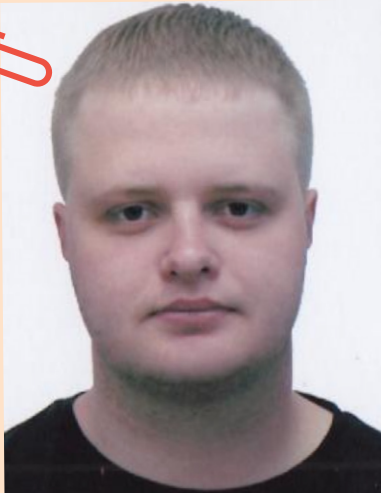
local police inspector, Enforcement and
Prevention Unit, public security police of the
Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"...He was the person taking missing person reports from family members, and there was an officer who was standing at the gate taking reports because they wouldn't let us in. August 10, 2020, at around 10 p.m."



FULL NAME

**Krivoshein,
Vyacheslav Andreevich**

position, rank

local police inspector, Enforcement and Prevention Unit, Public Security Police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"...He looks like an investigator who sat in the room where the documents were written up. At first, he had his face open, later he put on a balaclava."

"Perhaps he is some kind of investigator, where they interrogated us so that we sign all the papers. There were many different investigators, many detainees, in short, all of us, in the same room. He looks a lot like one of them."

N° 016



FULL NAME

**Petrovich,
Andrey Leonidovich**

position, rank

head of the Criminal Investigation Department, criminal police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk, GUVD (Main Department of Internal Affairs) of the Minsk City Executive Committee

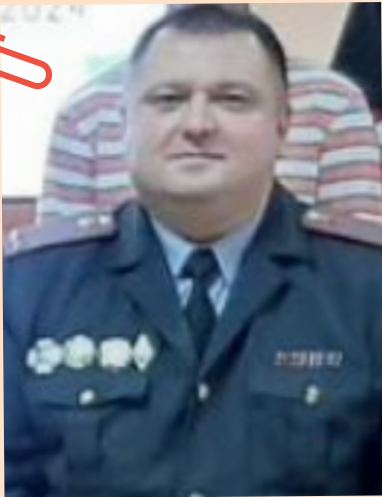
Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"This one looks like someone who might have been sitting in the office when the fingerprints were taken. ...He looks like a major who took notes and handed out reports."

N° 017



FULL NAME

**Korsak,
Sergey Vladimirovich**

position, rank

Head of the Inspectorate for Juvenile Affairs, Public Security Police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"Some kind of boss. Well, this one looks so much like one of the officers who took us out, who guarded us during transfer from the cell."



FULL NAME

**Kishkevich,
Dzmitry Vyacheslavovich**

position, rank

senior criminal investigation officer, criminal police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

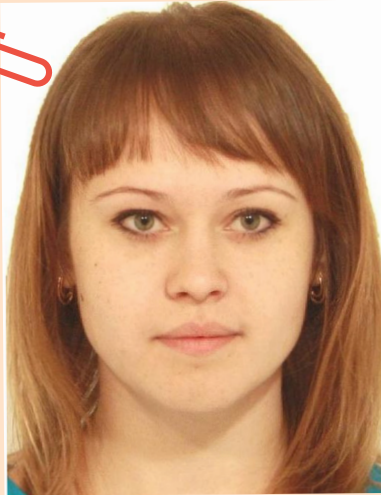
Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"This happened on the night of August 12-13, from Wednesday to Thursday. Most likely, it was about an hour or two at night, the time we were released on Thursday, August 13, 2020. He looks a lot like the man who took us out. He did not take part in the violence against us; he, this man, came up to us afterwards. And the people in balaclavas (black mask on the face) said that "they haven't learned their lesson yet," and we were moved to another wall. And after some time, this man came up again and took us outside the gates of the Tsentralnoye RUVD and said that "you won't get a report, don't go anywhere else," and let us go home."

"He drew up a report on the night of August 11-12 in the office. The report had already been written in advance and did not correspond to reality. Under threat of beating, he forced me to sign it. I did, because those who refused to do that were beaten in the courtyard. I was on my knees all this time."



FULL NAME

**Andreyuk,
Elena Vasilyevna**

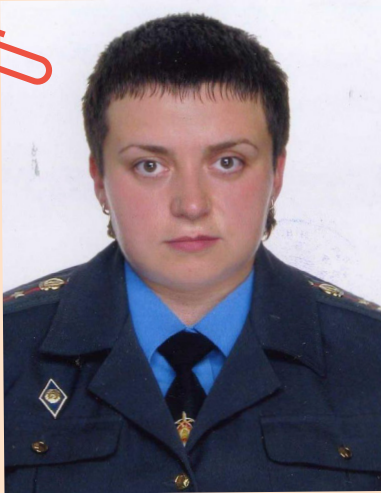
position, rank

specialist of the Penal Enforcement Inspectorate of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk, GUVD of the Minsk City Executive Committee

Involvement in torture

Identified by the survivors. She participated in inspections and drawing up documents for detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk. She was involved in the beatings and torture of detainees at the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"She was an officer who took us out of the police department building into the courtyard, the parking lot, so that I could take my things from there. When they took us there, they took our things and simply threw them into one big pile. And then at some point, they had to be brought back into the building for inspection. This happened on the night of August 11-12, 2020. Somewhere around midnight, maybe after midnight."



FULL NAME

**Shamruk,
Elena Vladimirovna**

position, rank

local police inspector, Enforcement and Prevention Unit, Public Security Police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

Identified by the survivors. She participated in inspections and drawing up documents for detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk. She was involved in the beatings and torture of detainees at the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

She was in the Akrestsina temporary detention center on Thursday, August 13 (probably in the brigade that went to Akrestsina from the police department), together with Spalivis. She was present during torture and inhuman treatment. She released the victims on August 13 from the Akrestsina temporary detention center.

"...When they took my photos, there were three people there. One was just sitting there, the second was photographing, [this] woman was sitting at the table, she was writing something down."

N° 021



FULL NAME

**Savkova,
Natalya Viktorovna**

position, rank

local inspector, the Inspectorate for Juvenile Affairs, Public Security Police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

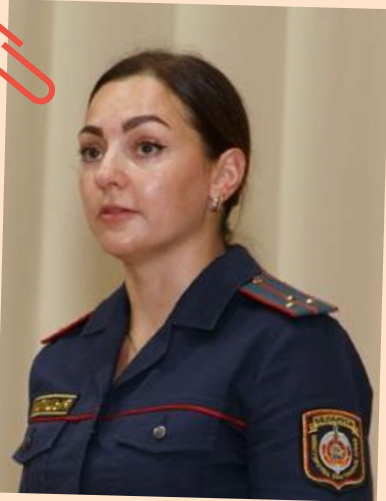


Identified by the survivors. She participated in interviews and drawing up the papers against detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk. She was involved in the beatings and torture of detainees at the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"One of the RUVD employees interviewed me and drew up a report on me."

"She looks like the woman who sat there as a clerk. Who explained how to take fingerprints, how to stand for a photograph."

N° 022



FULL NAME

**Kaliberova,
Nadezhda Gennadyevna**

position, rank

local inspector, the Inspectorate for Juvenile Affairs, Public Security Police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



She was involved in the beatings and torture of detainees at the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

N° 023



FULL NAME

**Sheiko,
Alexei Sergeevich**

position, rank

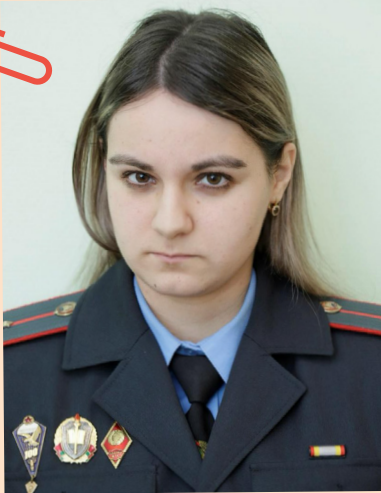
local inspector, the Inspectorate for Juvenile Affairs, Public Security Police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"...He beat a lot of people. ...There was a little one there, a senior lieutenant, he wore a balaclava from the moment I arrived, but his eyes were very similar, and he beat everyone there very hard. He did it with pleasure..."



FULL NAME

**Marinich,
Veleria Konstantinovna**

position, rank

detective officer, Department for Combating Economic Crimes, criminal police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. She participated in inspections and drawing up documents for detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk. She was involved in the beatings and torture of detainees at the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"I saw her at the Tsentralnoye RUVD, standing near the duty desk with a folder of documents. She was aggressive. She said [about me]: "Another dickhead delivered." I liked the eyebrows, my friend has eyebrows like that, I remember thinking – she had dude's eyebrows. ...I remember that she was aggressive. I think she served there in the special forces, someone said that, or some special unit, or underwent some kind of training.



FULL NAME

**Kukhta,
Alexei Anatolyevich**

position, rank

senior local police inspector, Enforcement and Prevention Unit, public security police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"I managed to uninstall a couple of messengers where I had information, and he saw that and laughed. He said, "You think you're so smart, now we'll see." He tried to restore these messengers but failed. I also had Viber, with some personal correspondence, he looked through it. My mother sent me some poems about the post-election events. And he said: "Oh, beautiful poems." He also called me by [name and patronymic], "don't worry," in a very caring tone. He also asked: "Why are you going there, why aren't you sitting at home?" He said it in such a preachy tone, as if talking to a stupid girl."

N° 026



FULL NAME

**Generalov,
Ivan Vladimirovich**

position, rank

local police inspector, Enforcement and Prevention Unit, public security police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"Looks like someone who guarded the courtyard. He beat people."

N° 027



FULL NAME

**Grinevich,
Anastasia Vladimirovna**

position, rank

senior inspector Penal Enforcement Inspectorate, public security police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. She participated in inspections and drawing up documents for detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk. She was involved in the beatings and torture of detainees at the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"One of the two who most resembles the woman who wrote up the report."

N° 028



FULL NAME

**Zhibul,
Elena Petrovna**

position, rank

local inspector, Juvenile Affairs Inspectorate,
public security police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD
of Minsk

Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. She participated in inspections and drawing up documents for detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk. She was involved in the beatings and torture of detainees at the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"...She looks like the woman who drew up the report."

N° 029



FULL NAME

**Vladykovskaya,
Olga Mikhailovna**

position, rank

senior inspector for administrative practice,
Enforcement and Prevention Unit, public security
police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture



She participated in inspections and drawing up documents for detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk. She was involved in the beatings and torture of detainees at the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

N° 030



FULL NAME

**Germanovich,
Timofey Sergeevich**

position, rank

police driver of the Operational Duty Service

Involvement in torture

Identified by the survivors. Participated in the transportation of detainees to/from the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"This Germanovich, the driver, took people to Akrestsina. He was inactive, and crimes were being committed before his eyes."

N° 031



FULL NAME

**Titov,
Vyacheslav Andreevich**

position, rank

local police inspector, Enforcement and Prevention Unit, Public Security Police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Involvement in torture

Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"Looks like the officer who did the interviewing."

N° 032



FULL NAME

Smolski,
Alexei Anatolyevich

position, rank

senior local police inspector, Enforcement and Prevention Unit, public security police of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

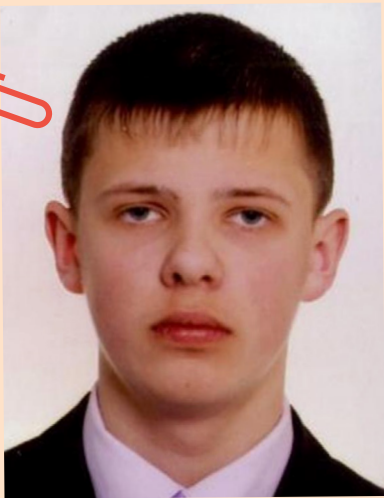
Involvement in torture



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"He was in charge of everybody out there. He was wearing a black T-shirt and pants with a red stripe. ...During the search, he saw that I had a T-shirt with "Chase" under my jacket, and immediately gave me several punches in the chest."

N° 033



FULL NAME

Spalivis,
Oleg Petrovich

position, rank

police driver of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk

Причастность к пыткам



Identified by the survivors. He participated in the beatings and torture of detainees in the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk.

"He was at Akrestsina temporary detention center on August 13. When he found out that I had been detained on the afternoon of August 9 and that I was an observer, he took out a baton to beat me. He was already aiming at my legs and groin area. And the female major, who was standing next to him, said: "Wait, wait, wait, don't touch him! We are releasing them now, there are journalists outside, now everyone will see that they are freshly beaten."

LEGAL ASSESSMENT OF THE ACTIONS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

"They beat him for 40 minutes at the RUV D, then the OMON officers beat him for another hour. He had been vomiting all night and apparently had a concussion. He said that he fainted and came back to senses from the blows. There were people beaten for hours. They were simply tortured for hours. It still didn't break them. Nothing broke these people, and they still stood their ground, their opinion. The stories were astounding."

From the victim's testimony

The events that took place in the Tsentralnoye RUV D of Minsk show that its employees, as members of the law enforcement bodies of the country, who should serve and protect the population of Belarus and fight crime, acted rather like members of military formations, who carry out criminal orders.

Testimonies of citizens detained at the peaceful protests of August 9-13, 2020, as well as numerous documents provided by them to the *International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus*, once again confirm that the officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus carried out large-scale acts of violence (torture), abuse and cruelty on the territory of the Tsentralnoye District Police Department (RUV D) of Minsk, and, in particular, the following.

People brought to the Tsentralnoye RUVD, including minors and women, were subjected to organized brutal beatings, chased through a line of officers with batons (the so-called corridors)¹. 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. At the slightest change of posture or lowering of hands, the people were beaten by the officers. Many detainees were thrown to the ground and forced to lie on the cold ground at night in the rain, face down in the asphalt or puddle with their hands tied behind their backs (tied with plastic construction clamps). At the same time, the clamps were tightened so tightly that their hands hurt, went numb and turned a bright burgundy color.

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, cynical insults, and threats of sexual violence. Like the men, they stood at the wall with their hands raised for many long hours.

Keeping beaten and exhausted people in overcrowded, stuffy and damp cells was tantamount to torture and cruel treatment. Detainees were not given any food and were restricted in water and access to the toilet. Any demands to respect their rights were suppressed with brutal force (beatings with batons, hands, feet, and stun guns). As a rule, medical assistance was not provided, medicines were not dispensed, ambulance was called only in exceptional cases. As a result of their detention in the RUVD, many detainees have developed major physical and mental health problems.

Under such circumstances, the actions of the Tsentralnoye RUVD officers on the territory and in the premises of the RUVD against detainees, as reflected in this inquiry, are criminal under both domestic and international law. 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

¹ It should be noted that these practices of "treating" citizens was carried out in all district police departments of Minsk on August 9–13, 2020.

acts of a similar character by intentionally inflicting great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.

Based on the facts and testimonies presented in this inquiry, it can be concluded that the criminal acts of the law enforcement officers of the Tsentralnoye RUVD of Minsk are purposeful actions within the framework of a deliberate widespread and systematic attack against civilians throughout the country and can be qualified as international crimes — crimes against humanity. This essentially distinguishes them from ordinary crimes and violations of human rights².

Even though the norms of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus do not fully correlate with the definition of crimes against humanity enshrined in the draft articles on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity and the Rome Statute, the acts discussed in this report are crimes for which the perpetrators must be held accountable. Belarus shares the idea that crimes against humanity exist as crimes regardless of domestic criminalization of the conduct in question.

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.

² See Belarus: Crime against Humanity Legal qualification of crimes of A. Lukashenko's regime. Chapter 2. Crimes against humanity: widespread and systematic attack against civilians. Pp. 21–30. https://torturesbelarus2020.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/belarus_prestuplen%D0%B8ya_prot%D0%B8v_chelovechnost%D0%B8_2021-1.pdf

