

Partizansky District Department of Internal Affairs, Minsk Torture of Detainees August 8–13, 2020

Public Investigation



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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

VTP (rus. Avtozak) — Vehicle for Transporting Prisoners/Detainees

RPS — Road Patrol Service

TDF (rus. IVS) — Temporary Detention Facility

JAI — Juvenile Affairs Inspectorate

CRBAO (rus. KoAP) — Code of the Republic of Belarus on Administrative Offenses

PTDC — Pre-Trial Detention Cell

ODS — Operational Duty Service

SPPU (rus. OMON) — Special Purpose Police Unit

DPOP (rus. OOPP) — Department for Public Order Protection and Prevention of Violations at Mass Events

DDIA (rus. RUVD) — District Department of Internal Affairs / District Police Department

PPS — Patrol-Post Police Service

CEI — Criminal Executive Inspection

CCRB — Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus

OIC (rus. CIP) — Offender Isolation Center

METHODOLOGY

This document is another evidentiary report documenting crimes against humanity committed by the regime following the presidential elections in the Republic of Belarus in August 2020. *The International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus*, fulfilling its mandate to identify all cases of torture and ill-treatment, is conducting a public investigation of events at the Police Department of the Partizansky District of Minsk from August 8 to 13, 2020.

This report represents a further investigation into cases of mass torture and ill-treatment in the district departments of internal affairs in Minsk following the 2020 presidential elections. The Committee's experts previously analyzed events at the *Frunzensky*¹, *Sovetsky*², *Tsentralny*³, and *Moskovsky*⁴ District Department of Internal Affairs of Minsk, as well as the *Offender Isolation*

1 Общественное расследование: пытки задержанных в августе 2020-го во Фрунзенском РУВД г. Минска. <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 Общественное расследование пыток в Советском РУВД 9–13 августа 2020 года. «Давай, давай, убивай! Вы что, забыли, в какой стране живете?» <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/ru/davaj-davaj-zabivaj-vy-shto-zabylysiya-u-yakojkraine-zhyvyacze/> (RU)
Public Inquiry into Torture at the Sovetskoye RUV D 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 «Вы сдохнете здесь». Узники Окрестина свидетельствуют. Общественное расследование. <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/ru/vy-sdohnete-zdes/> (RU)
«YOU WILL DIE HERE». Testimonies of the Prisoners of Akrestina. Public investigation of cases of mass torture in the Center for isolation of offenders in the city of Minsk on August 9–14, 2020 <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/en/vy-sdohnete-zdes/> (Eng)

4 Московское РУВД города Минска. Пытки задержанных 9–13 августа 2020 года. Общественное расследование. https://torturesbelarus2020.org/ru/moskovskoe_ruvd/

Center on Okrestina⁵ and other police units, where detainees were brought between August 8 and 13, 2020.

For the purposes of this investigation, the experts of the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus thoroughly examined 43 individual interviews (523 pages of transcript) with individuals who were detained in the city and brought by security forces to the Police Department of the Partizansky District, Minsk. Chronological accounts of each day of detention were compiled on the basis of these interviews. The experts also carefully analyzed photographs of injuries and medical documentation provided by victims (58 pages).

This document includes the section **[“Consequences: Injuries and Harm to Detainees”](#)**, which analyzes the physical and psychological consequences suffered by detainees following their detention at the Police Department of the Partizansky District, Minsk.

The section **[“Persons Responsible for Torture of Detainees at the Partizansky District Department of Internal Affairs, Minsk”](#)** contains an analysis of information obtained from the databases of partner organizations and initiatives, including the Human Rights Center Viasna and Cyber Partisans, as well as information from open sources, social media, Telegram channels, and victims' testimonies.

The section **[“Legal Qualification of the Actions of Belarusian Law Enforcement Officers”](#)** analyzes the conduct of officers of the Police Department of the Partizansky District, Minsk in light of national legislation and international legal standards.

All personal data and supporting documentation are in the possession of *the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus*. However, in order to ensure the safety of our sources and victims, personal data are not disclosed in this investigation.

5 Центральное РУВД г. Минска. пытки задержанных 9–13 августа 2020 года. общественное расследование. https://torturesbelarus2020.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/report_centruvud_ru-2.pdf (RU)

Brief Overview of Events at the Partizansky District Department of Internal Affairs: “We Were Also Born Under Lukashenko”

“It was clearly a torture room... There was a pool of blood at head level, where people were pressed against the wall with their foreheads. There were marks, circles, bloodstains. And in the morning, when the cleaning lady came in, she would say: ‘I’m already tired of washing blood off with chlorine here.’ That is, apparently, this had not been happening for just one day, and she was annoyed that there was blood there and that she had to clean it.”

From the testimony of a victim.



Photo: Police Department of the Partizansky District, Minsk. 26 Vaupshasava Street, Minsk.

Detainees were brought to the Police Department of the Partizansky District, Minsk from across the city between August 8 and 12. All those delivered were initially forced to run through a corridor formed by officers standing on both sides, including SPPU (OMON) officers and possibly officers of the Partizansky Police Department, who beat them with batons.

Interviewed victims testified that law enforcement officers detained them in the city in an extremely violent manner. Various security structures took part in the arrests. Alongside SPPU (OMON) officers, the following units were reportedly operating in Minsk during those days: the Special Counter-Terrorism Unit "Almaz"⁶, the KGB unit "Alpha," as well as Internal Troops. Some detainees also mentioned the presence of Russian military personnel; however, it has not been possible to verify this information.

Law enforcement officers primarily targeted young men during arrests in the city. They demonstrated particular hostility toward individuals of athletic build and those wearing white wristbands (a symbol of support for alternative presidential candidates), and searched young men for sharp objects (such as pocket knives) and sports equipment. Arrests generally took place in the evening, when people were returning from work, engaging in sports activities, or simply being on the streets of the city. As a result, many random passersby were brought to the Police Department of the Partizansky District, including minors, elderly persons, and women. Among those detained at the Police Department of the Partizansky District were also foreign nationals, including citizens of Germany, Georgia, and India.

People were brutally beaten with batons and with their hands, both during arrest and while being transported to the Police Department. Beatings and ill-treatment continued at the Police Department.

According to the investigation, between August 8 and 13, officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus (police), disguised in special uniforms intended for exceptional situations (black uniforms without insignia, boots, reinforced gloves, balaclavas), were operating on the premises of the Police Department of the Partizansky District. These officers were equipped with rubber batons⁷ and carried service weapons. Due to the unusual uniforms, many victims believed that the violent actions were carried out not by the Police Department officers themselves but by SPPU (OMON) — Special Purpose Police Unit officers.

6 According to the information reported by *The Insider* (<https://theins.ru/>), members of the unit may have been involved in the killing of Alexander Taraikovsky during the suppression of protest actions in Minsk on August 10, 2020, alongside officers of the KGB unit "Alpha."

7 The PR-73, a standard rubber baton, is a special police equipment item in Belarus. It measures 65–70 cm in length and is used by police officers for self-defense, repelling attacks, and suppressing noncompliance by offenders.

"All these officers were dressed in black OMON uniforms. Although there were operational officers, precinct officers, chiefs, deputies, and everyone else — practically all were involved. The entire Police Department was present on-site. Everyone was issued this uniform, all wore boots, all this equipment, and everyone had balaclavas. Naturally, they did not remove them while on the premises of their Police Department, including the balaclavas."

Detainees were held in the basement⁸, the assembly hall⁹, and the cells. It was in these rooms that people were detained and subjected to torture.

"They brought these people... beaten, screaming, led them with handcuffs. They put everyone into a basement-type room. There was a shooting range there, where they train to shoot. And they made everyone lie on the floor there. At the entrance to this range, I think there was a sink to wash hands, something like that. And near that sink, there was blood all over the floor."

At the same time, on different days between August 8 and 13, up to 90–120 people were held at the Police Department of the Partizansky District¹⁰. All rooms were overcrowded, and the conditions of detention were inhumane (poor lighting, filth, dampness, stifling heat, lack of ventilation, and no possibility to lie down to rest). Detainees were forced to kneel for hours, with their faces pressed against the floor or a wall — often for up to twelve hours at a stretch.

"...It is very sad. These were OMON officers, presumably OMON. He was beaten while we were all being beaten at the very beginning, when we were brought into this basement. He was beaten so much that he soiled himself, and they did not allow him to wash at any sink. None of us were allowed to use any sinks, not even to wash our hands. At some point, before this huge terrifying man came with his XXL baton, we were each given one wet wipe, and we all pooled them together and gave the wet wipes to this guy."

8 *"This is a square space, roughly 10 by 10 meters, with a plain concrete floor, ordinary painted walls, and poor lighting." (From the testimony of a detainee).*

9 *"Not a very large room. Along the wall there are three tables, five rows of chairs deep and eight rows wide — in short, a hall of chairs with a single aisle down the middle, between the two halves of the hall. White chairs, already fixed in rows, with holes in the backs and seats, like those in the Israeli embassy." (From the testimony of a detainee).*

10 It is extremely difficult to determine the exact number of people, as during the period in question detainees were held in different rooms and were periodically moved from one room to another.

Some detainees were allowed to inform their relatives of their whereabouts, but most were unable to do so. Relatives of detainees spent nights outside the walls of the Police Department of the Partizansky District, trying to learn anything about their loved ones, but without success; officers openly lied to them, claiming that no lists of detainees were available.

"...My mother spent the entire night outside this Police Department of the Partizansky District, trying to explain to the officers... This kind woman gave us a call, and the investigator said that we were at the Police Department. I told her: 'I am at the Police Department of the Partizansky District, it happened this way.' But they insisted that we say we had been lawfully detained, though I did not hear that anyone actually did."

According to testimonies of the victims, they remained at the Police Department for 12–16 hours. As a rule, the next morning they were either released or transferred to the temporary detention facility on Okrestina Street in Minsk, or to the pre-trial detention center in Zhodino.

During their stay at the Police Department of the Partizansky District, most detainees were allowed to use the toilet and were given water upon request; however, no food was provided to anyone. Sanitary and hygiene measures in connection with the COVID–19 pandemic were not observed, creating a serious threat to the life and health of the detainees.

"There was absolutely no food provided, and we had to get water from the tap. Everything always took several attempts. 'Please, give us some water.' Silence. 'Please, give us some water.' Silence. 'May we have some water, please?' People would ask only once, then someone would be sent to fetch a bottle of 'Darida [mineral water brand]'. There were 57 of us, and one liter of 'Darida' was divided like this. More water — 'What the hell! You need water again?'"

As a result of the numerous beatings during arrest, transport, and detention at the Police Department, as well as extreme psychological stress, many people required medical assistance. Men suffered from open bloody wounds, hematomas, damaged ligaments, fractures of the arms and legs, and injuries to internal organs. Despite these injuries, requests to call a doctor were ignored by the officers. No medical assistance was provided to detainees on the premises of the Police Department.

Among the detainees was a cancer patient, yet he was not allowed to receive the medication his mother had brought. Victims reported only isolated

instances of an ambulance arriving at the Police Department, to provide assistance to those injured during these days.

None of the detainees were issued any documents regarding offenses or the fact of their detention. Some detainees were left only with personal search reports. Falsified administrative offense reports were produced by the hundreds, while no administrative hearings were held at the Police Department of the Partizansky District during this period.

"I did not see any report about the offense or my detention, but I know it exists because we were all told that reports on us already exist. They are at the Police Department of the Partizansky District."

The bulk of detainees began to be removed from the Police Department on August 10. On the morning of August 13, the last detainees were taken from the Police Department. During the loading process into the TVD (Avtozak), people were subjected to a cruel and inhumane procedure known as "remont" (literally, "repair"): officers beat people to exhaustion. The authors of this document present a quotation from one of the victims without any omissions, as only someone who has experienced this can fully describe what happened:

"He pointed at us and said: 'These are the ones on a special program.' Several people immediately attacked us, knocked us to the ground, started beating us severely, tightened zip ties behind our backs, and began throwing us one by one into the transport vehicle. In the green Avtozak, onto the floor, we were beaten along the way, beaten at the very moment they threw us in. The beatings continued for a long time. You lose all sense of time. They beat, in my perception, until they themselves got tired. Someone was lying on my legs — my legs were relatively protected. I took blows to my back, neck, and head. They beat with batons, feet, fists, and even jumped on us. This was not just an act of violence, but an act of unmotivated cruelty.

They beat us as if they wanted to kill us.

Naturally, they shouted at us, calling us 'scum, bastards, sellouts,' saying that we were destroying the country, that now we would be taken to the forest, killed, and buried. They called this entire procedure 'remont.' They said to us: 'We are repairing you now. You are not whole, you are broken. We are the repair crew.' At some point, the transport vehicle started moving. We were driven away. Naturally, during the beatings, people screamed and cried. At the same time, excuse the details, people soiled themselves from the pain and fear..."

The body of testimonies from detainees paints a horrifying picture of what happened to Belarusians within the walls of the Police Department of the Partizansky District, Minsk, between August 8 and 13, 2020. At the same time, those responsible for the abuse and torture have not been held accountable — to date, no criminal cases have been initiated against the law enforcement officers who subjected detainees to torture and cruel treatment.



Photo: Shooting range of the Police Department of the Partizansky District, Minsk, used for holding citizens detained between August 8 and 13, 2020. Screenshot at 0:46.

Source: [Officers of the Police Department of the Partizansky District, Minsk, moved to a new building.](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF TORTURE OF DETAINEES

AUGUST 8–13, 2020

“A man ran up to me, put the barrel to my head, and said: ‘Should I... (there was a curse word) shoot you?’”

— Testimony of a victim

The main locations where detainees were held in the Police Department of the Partizansky District were auxiliary rooms not intended for this purpose. According to victims, these were two basements with concrete walls and floors, one of which — a shooting range — had dim lighting from a few bulbs, no natural light, and no heating.

“Before entering the room, which is separate from the main building of the Police Department, there is a small house — just two basements. And some offices along the corridor, I didn’t go there. There

are two basements, one — the deepest basement, a huge space with columns and three yellow lamps, where we spent a lot of time.

The second basement is slightly higher than the first, where there was a large concrete room. Unlike the first basement, it had small windows, which were later opened for us closer to morning.”

“Then they took us to a basement — a real basement, a room with rough, unfinished repairs, with plastered walls and a concrete screed floor — dusty and bare. The next stage was probably meant to be tiling, I don’t know. One or two solitary bulbs hung from the ceiling.”

It was in this basement that beatings and abuse of city residents detained by the authorities took place.

“What else from the Police Department? At first, we were made to kneel, then lie on our stomachs, face down, then on our backs, then back on our knees. They were having fun. All of this was either face down or against the wall.”

All main procedures (search, registration, inventory of belongings, fingerprinting) also took place on the ground floor, but in other rooms. The testimonies of many detainees coincide in their descriptions of both the holding locations (basements) and the locations of these procedures.

“They brought us into a corridor, packed us tightly — basically slammed our heads against the wall. Our hands were still behind our backs because of the plastic cable ties¹¹, but then they removed them so we could give fingerprints. It was just a corridor, like in any government building: stretch ceiling, some cheap lamps. The corridor was shaped like a ‘T’, and we were at the top of it, with open doors to offices where other staff were sitting. They were all in black T-shirts, doing some paperwork, some documentation.”

“In the end, when it was my turn, they took me to an adjacent room, probably an assembly hall. A room for meetings. There was a table, a board, and seats opposite the table, like at provincial railway stations — metal, three welded together.”

11 Plastic construction cable ties (zazhimy)

August 8, 2020

“He had construction cable ties on his hands behind his back... He repeatedly asked to have these ties removed... and said, ‘I’m going to lose consciousness, my blood pressure is dropping.’ And the officer — who, as it seems to me, was wearing a white shirt — replied something like, ‘We’ll take all of you away, kill you, no one will look for you.’ And something along those lines, like, ‘You are animals.’”

— Testimony of a victim

Later in the evening of August 8, 2020, the first groups of detainees began arriving at the Police Department. There were at least 15 people in each prison transport vehicle, many of whom had been arbitrarily detained near the Otkyabrskaya metro station. Detainees were lined up against the wall, facing it, with their hands raised and legs spread wide. Any attempt to change position was treated as disobedience and punished with blows from rubber batons.

“I initially just stood with my hands against the wall, placing them slightly above head level. Then someone approached me and hit my hands with a baton to spread them, because they were standing too narrowly.”

Detainees were kept against the wall for prolonged periods without being allowed to change their position. Exhausted individuals feared losing consciousness due to **extreme stress, fear, and pain**, and they asked to have the cable ties on their hands loosened — to which the officers responded with threats of physical violence.

Witnesses singled out the brutality of a police officer in a white shirt¹². A white armband on his wrist, likely forcibly removed from a detainee, was worn conspicuously and appeared as a deliberate gesture of humiliation.

“He left a strong impression on me; he behaved quite vilely. He said that all of you will be killed. At some point, I noticed him enter the hall with a white armband on his wrist. He was mocking us, I think.”

Around 21:00, detainees were taken to the basement individually or in pairs.

12

Some detainees identified this officer as the chief of the Partizansky District Police Department, Minsk.

In the corridor, construction cable ties removed from the detainees were already lying on the floor. Inside the room, men in civilian clothes were seated at tables — they were registering personal data and processing the confiscation of belongings. During the processing, the officers clearly struggled to account for the detainees and to manage their movement between rooms, indicating a lack of preparation even for handling small groups of detainees.

"Their whole process of information exchange and logistics was a complete mess — they were constantly running around, unable to figure out who they had and who they didn't."

August 9, 2020

"Some big boss also came out, as we were later told — the head of the police department. He was walking around, unhappy that he was being forced to work at night because of us, that we were 'running around.' There were sounds of blows, he walked periodically, kicking people with his foot. Then they unloaded those guys, three of them. They were yelled at the most, and it was audible that they were being beaten."

— Testimony of a detainee

00:00 • 04:00

Around midnight, the detainees were moved to another part of the building. The transfer was through a courtyard and an entrance secured with an electronic lock. Here, detainees had their fingerprints taken and were photographed. The staff continued to act chaotically. Before fingerprinting, due to the absence of soap, people were forced to wash their hands with an abrasive powder that burned their skin.

"They themselves didn't know what to do: 'Come in... stand... go out... wait...' Everything was chaotic."

"They told me: 'Go wash your hands.' I looked — there was no soap. I said: 'You don't have soap.' They panicked: 'How is there none?' They brought soda, like scouring powder. I said: 'Are you serious?'"

After fingerprinting, the detainees were given falsified administrative offense protocols, in which they were accused of "participating in the violation of public order," "shouting slogans," and "resisting authorities."

"The protocol said: shouting slogans, harassing citizens, cynically violating order. I said I did not agree with this and signed as dissenting."

After processing, one of the groups of detainees was placed into a Geely passenger car. People were put on the back seat, practically lying on top of each other. The process was overseen by an officer in a white shirt. The front seats were occupied by a driver without uniform and an officer in a blue shirt. Later, the car proceeded toward the Temporary Detention Facility on Okrestina Street.

"Three of us sat down, he said: 'Sit, one more.' Then: 'And this one too.' In the end, there were five of us on the back seat. I was sitting on someone else's knee. All of this seemed completely normal to them."

20:00 • 24:00

After mass arbitrary detentions in Minsk, people were brought to the territory of the Partizansky District Police Department, where they were roughly unloaded from autotransport vehicles, often literally thrown onto the ground. Detainees were forced to kneel on the cold asphalt, lower their heads, and keep their hands behind their backs; they were laid face down, forbidden to move or raise their gaze. Prolonged time in this position was accompanied by moaning, shouting, and pleas for help from those who were feeling unwell.

"So we ran to the wall, and they made us all kneel... like in the fetal position. Face down, lying on our knees, head to the ground, so bent over, and hands behind. And we stayed like that — I don't know, felt like forever."

At the slightest movement or attempt to raise the head, blows with batons or kicks from law enforcement officers followed.

"OMON officers... could hit with a baton if a detainee twitched — 'showed disobedience.'"

"I also lifted my head, tried to breathe, and I got a slap on the back of the head, like, 'lie face down, and that's it.'"

Among the present officers, the one who stood out was still the officer in uniform, in a white shirt. He directed other staff and personally used physical force against those in the “wrong” positions.

“He commanded everyone: the OMON officers, the police officers, and personally beat people. He hit people in the groin. He hit me too.”

A separate trigger for the officers was the presence of white armbands on detainees.

“If he didn't like how someone stood, he would hit their legs. I wasn't hit, I stood properly. Some officers, when he left, asked about the white armbands, what they were... Then the chief hit someone for a white armband.”

“We stood facing the wall, hands and feet spread. The chief came periodically, and he wasn't always satisfied with the width of our stance. He would explain it with the baton from time to time. White armband were torn off people: ‘What's this?’ They replied that it was for the alternative candidate. They said: ‘Oh, you support the alternative candidate?’ And hit them. This also took about one to two hours.”

At that time, on the territory of the Police Department, according to detainees, around forty people were lying or kneeling near the entrance. Officers approached the lying detainees one by one, asking for full name, date of birth, and residential address.

“They led people out of the bus one by one, hands tied behind their back, face down... near the entrance, there were already about 40 detainees lying or kneeling.”

Many detainees felt unwell; some vomited — people suffered from both physical and psychological abuse. Despite this, no medical assistance was provided: officers refused to call an ambulance or provide medications.

“Some detainees felt unwell, some vomited, but no medical assistance was provided, no ambulance arrived, and no medications were given to anyone.”

Due to prolonged kneeling, legs became numb and swollen, so some people simply could not stand for a while.

"Because it was very hard: the blood flow to the legs was completely blocked, so they went numb, you don't feel them. I've never experienced anything like this in my life. I literally tried, I couldn't move my leg at all. My legs had gone numb before, but never to the point that I literally couldn't feel them..."

August 10, 2020

00:00 • 04:00

"He said: 'They've pissed me off, I would shoot them right here.' And we stood for some time on this cobblestone. They then said: 'Take them to the basement.' That 'basement' sounded terrifying, especially since one of the officers had said before: 'I would shoot them right here.'"

— From a victim's testimony

After several hours outside, officers in black special uniforms and masks began to take detainees one by one into the building. There, they were lined up along the wall, facing it, with hands behind their backs. Any attempt to adopt a more comfortable position was met with blows.

"Everyone brought into the room was lined up along the wall, facing it, with hands behind their back. I spent about an hour in that position... For disobedience (turning the head), the officers hit you."

"And everyone was made to face the wall. You press your head against it and stand at an angle. You had to maintain the correct angle, because, God forbid, if you set your arms or legs too wide, moved them, turned your head, or felt too comfortable, they would hit you. So you had to stand uncomfortably."

"In this position, facing the wall, I don't know how long I stood, probably a couple of hours, because it was already early morning, and I just kept passing out. That is, I stood there, falling asleep. Woke up. Someone was being shouted at... I just stood — tried to be quieter than water, lower than grass, so that, God forbid, no one would have any claims against me."

After that, people were called one by one into a room where searches were conducted, fingerprints were taken, and personal data recorded. Detainees were photographed and short videos were recorded, where they stated their full name, address, and identifying features.

"Then they started bringing people in one by one. First, they took personal belongings — an inventory of personal items was made. Watches, shoelaces, everything in pockets — you hand it over. They document it, put it in a bag — and then send you further. Then they took us for fingerprinting. Fingers were scanned, and videos were recorded."

Later, officers in masks left, and detainees were called for searches much faster. After this, some police officers started showing relative leniency towards detainees, while investigators remained cruel and indifferent.

"When I came, everyone was very nice. They gave a bag, asked if everything was okay, you could even leave cigarettes. These were police officers not older than junior lieutenant. The investigators were very cruel, they didn't care at all."

"It felt like, if they weren't sympathetic, at least there wasn't such fanatical hatred. They understood. A person who escorted us to the toilet told us he hadn't eaten for two days, only went out to smoke. Why would I need to tell them all this? The leadership, obviously, was much more fanatical. Or OMON."

04:00 • 08:00

After interrogations and searches, detainees were again placed in the basement room. There they spent the remainder of the night and part of the following day. A witness noted that the basement was relatively warm, but there were no conditions for rest or sleep — people either sat or lay on the concrete floor.

"Then they took us back, to the same basement. We sat there. They no longer forced us to stand, we just sat. Someone tried to sleep."

The toilet was located outside, and detainees were taken there in groups under police supervision.

"They took us to the toilet in groups of ten. Outside was a portable toilet, because the police said they weren't from this department and didn't know where anything was."

Witnesses noted that the police officers present inside the police department behaved differently from those who detained people on the streets. They were less aggressive, allowed calls home, and sometimes even joked.

"They let me call home. I called and told them where I was. They even let me use their phone. They joked, saying 'I can't let you call, my battery is at three percent.'"

However, witnesses reported that even after the situation inside the department gradually eased, sounds of beatings could still be heard.

"I didn't see much myself, but I heard someone being beaten. I heard the groans when a person was hit — a very characteristic sound. That's what I heard."

Detainees were not provided with water — they collected it themselves when the officer on duty took them to the toilet. No food was given. People remained in complete uncertainty; they were not informed what would happen to them next or how long they would stay at the police department.

"We collected water in bottles, went to the tap ourselves."

Around 5:00 a.m., the first group of detainees was prepared for transfer to the temporary detention facility. Three paddy wagons with special unit officers arrived at the police department. Officers brought all detainees outside, lined them up in several rows, and began calling names to put plastic cable ties on their hands. The process took about an hour, while the officers discussed among themselves who would accompany the detainees and who would go to suppress the protests.

"The detainees were in the boiler room for about half a day, after which a police officer came and said that the detainees would be taken to the detention center because no decision had been made on them yet. He said he needed to free the police department, and that in the prison there would be a court to determine the preventive measure."

"Around 5 [a.m.], officers arrived with numbers on their badges and a diamond symbol. There were three paddy wagons [Avtozak]. These

officers brought everyone out, lined them in front of the police department in several rows, and began calling names to put on cable ties."

By morning, some detainees began to be released. All women were freed, likely only receiving fines afterward. Among the detainees was a foreign citizen — a young man from India who did not speak Russian. He was also released.

"All the girls were released... Also, a young man who was an Indian citizen and didn't even speak Russian was released when everyone was being transported to Zhodino."

08:00 • 12:00

Closer to noon, preparation began for the transfer of the next groups of detainees. Detainees were brought outside, lined up in rows, and had their hands secured with plastic cable ties, which almost immediately restricted blood circulation in their hands.

"Around 12, they took us outside... waiting while some OMON officers, or maybe it was some ALMAZ unit, because they had green triangles on their uniforms. So, it was some separate unit."

"They came up, put cable ties on our hands, and shoved us into Avtozak. They tightened our hands very much — they started turning blue in almost everyone."

Detainees were herded into the paddy wagons in groups. In the cramped, stuffy compartment, there were up to 30 people: some were sitting on benches, others were forced to lie on the floor. One masked officer loosened the cable ties for those whose hands began to go numb, and later a senior officer brought wider, less restrictive ties. Gradually, the paddy wagons left the police department and headed toward the temporary detention facility on Okrestina Street.

"There were immediately about 30-something of us crammed in. Some were already sitting on the floor, and we were all packed tightly. There were two benches in the Avtozak. One OMON officer was guarding us. People started complaining that the ties were too tight and that their hands were turning blue."

"He brought proper cable ties. They cut the old ones — the new ones were wider and fastened more loosely, so you could move your hands a little."

16:00 • 24:00

At around 6:00 p.m., new groups of people detained in the city were brought to the police department. It is known that one group consisted of approximately thirty people, and apparently another of around sixty people. The paddy wagons entered the yard, where officers in special uniforms and masks immediately met them. Detainees were taken out one by one, with hands bent behind their backs, ordered to move quickly without raising their heads. Already upon exiting the paddy wagon, people were beaten — with strikes from batons and kicks. In the yard, everyone was arranged in several rows along the wall, on the asphalt. The position in which they were held was extremely uncomfortable: detainees were forced to kneel, pressing their heads to the ground and keeping their hands behind their backs.

"They brought us to the Partizansky District Police Department. When we stopped, they immediately started commanding us to 'get out.' They said: 'Run faster, bend your head.' You run fast, bend your head, but they start hitting anyway. Then they made us lie in a couple of rows along the wall of the police department on the asphalt."

*"But then it turned out that it didn't matter how fast you ran — they just beat you anyway. They shouted: 'Get out!' I ran out into a small yard, and later I realized it was the yard of the Partizansky District Police Department. I ran out and didn't know where to go. Two men in uniform, also wearing shirts, were standing there. Their whole job was just to beat us so we would move faster. 'Are we moving fast or not? Faster, you b*tch!' and you think: 'Faster... how?'"*

Any attempt to change posture or lift your gaze was perceived as disobedience and could result in new blows.

"If you moved or tried to lift your head, to get into a more comfortable position, they kicked you, hit you with batons. Maybe I got hit this way because I was at the edge, away from everyone else. The beatings were exclusively from the OMON officers."

"On the sides, on the buttocks, on the back. On the sides — with boots, on the back — with batons, on the buttocks — sometimes with boots, sometimes with batons. They swore, shouted: 'Don't move! Face down!' — and so on."

"The unloading was pretty harsh: everyone getting out of the Avtozak got several kicks, punches, and baton strikes. But immediately they made us kneel. As soon as someone tried to move or stand up, they got hit on the back with a baton. We were lined up along the wall — about 30 people. Maybe even more. I ended up at the very edge, I was unloaded last. And I got hit from practically everyone passing by."

Threats were made by the officers, including threats of death.

"Everyone was forced to kneel, on elbows, on the tiles, heads down. We stood like that for about 10 minutes while the officers walked around, discussing what to do. Naturally, at the same time they used psychological tactics in their speech."

Plainclothes officers supervised all processes, including video recording of detainees. They commanded the actions of the uniformed officers and tried to conceal their presence: detainees were forced to face the floor or wall, preventing them from seeing who was giving orders. Any attempt to look at them was immediately suppressed.

"They were in plain clothes. They were in charge. So they filmed everything: took photos, videos. They directed all processes. But again, they tried to make it so that we saw less of who was speaking and what. We were made to face the floor or the wall so we wouldn't see them. Whoever tried to look at them — got hit."

The officers paid particular attention to detainees based on visible characteristics: tall stature, long hair, and tattoos.

"And I got hit by practically everyone passing by. They saw: tall, strong guy with long hair. For them, that was also a trigger. A hard trigger — tattoos and hair. Any distinguishing features were a super-trigger for them."

Witnesses report that among the detainees were citizens of Georgia and Germany, as well as people with names or surnames not typical for Belarusian

citizens. Claims of foreign citizenship or requests to contact diplomatic staff often led to new episodes of violence.

"A citizen of Germany. And they beat him and shouted: 'I'll show you Germany!' And they beat him, and he, being very brave, said: 'Contact my consul' — 'I'll show you your consul!' — they beat him again, and gradually he fell silent."

The procedure of initial questioning of detainees was humiliating and demonstratively harsh. A woman registering personal data used physical impact as a form of command signal — a short kick to the body indicated that the next detainee should give their information. This practice emphasized hierarchy and absolute obedience, turning a standard administrative procedure into an act of psychological pressure.

"A person with a female voice began asking for the surname, date of birth, occupation, workplace. And she did it as follows: she simply approached and kicked the body, apparently to indicate who or what to answer."

The woman was accompanied by an officer in black uniform, who also struck each detainee several times regardless of their answers. After recording the personal information, the operatives would take the detainee and lead them further into the building.

"It followed the same scenario. She would say: 'Surname, first name, patronymic.' No one understands who is being addressed. The man standing next to her hits you on the back with a baton, and you answer. Then: 'Date of birth.' By now, you know they're talking to you, but you still get hit again. 'Occupation?' You get hit again, you answer, give your address. So a sort of rhythm developed. And so for everyone, one by one."

Prolonged standing in the same position led to numbness and swelling in the legs, making it temporarily impossible for people to move normally.

"At the moment I was told to stand up, I couldn't, because my legs had gone completely numb. I fell on my side and told them I couldn't feel my legs. One of them took me by the legs, lifted them up, shook them to get the blood flowing. It didn't help at all. They took me under the arms and carried me to the basement."

"But while they were questioning all of us, a lot of time passed, and I still couldn't feel my legs. I tried to tell them. We were all on our knees, and I asked something like, can I lie down? But they said: 'Quiet!' and hit me on the back."

Detainees were placed in the basement, lined up along the wall with a specific arrangement of hands and feet. Some were kneeling with their heads down, nearly immobile, which caused extreme physical and psychological discomfort.

"Then they lifted all of us and took us to the basement, without wallpaper, just a large empty basement where no one else was. Everyone was lined up along the walls. They said: 'Spread your legs, hold your hands like this.' Then they said you could sit if it became unbearable."

Officers demanded that detainees kneeling on the floor keep their foreheads touching the ground. Any deviation from this position triggered immediate reactions in the form of shouting and baton strikes. Under such conditions, prolonged stays became physically unbearable: the concrete, rough floor injured the skin, and many suffered abrasions and bruises.

"A very large basement, where they brought us to the wall, made us kneel again, and again said: 'Forehead on the floor.' That was their requirement. If you try to shift your weight, for example, a little to your thigh, or slightly lift yourself so your knees aren't fully bearing weight, it's immediately shouting and baton strikes."

"The guy across from me on the right said: 'I can't feel my legs, I can't feel my legs.' They told him: 'Quiet! Silence! We don't want to hear any complaints!'"

"After all this, the skin on my forehead peeled off for three weeks. It was completely scraped off because the concrete floor was poorly laid, very rough and uneven, and in the end you just scrape your forehead until it bleeds."

Initially, access to water in the basement was controlled not as a basic need, but as a form of reward for "exemplary behavior." A female officer openly contrasted those who showed obedience with the rest, demonstrating that humane treatment was only possible as a reward for complete compliance.

"She told us: 'If you behaved like this detainee, we might give you water too, but as it is—so be it.' Then she left. So we just took turns, and

when we realized there was a chance to get water, we asked: 'May we have water?' And this woman told us that this person behaves properly, he gets water, so you should follow his example."

During the stay in the basement and other rooms inside the building, officers in masks exerted psychological pressure on detainees, including crudely inquiring about their earnings and the amounts of money that, according to the officers, people had received for participating in protest actions.

"When they brought us into that basement room, I saw that people were in the same positions as we had been in the yard. Kneeling, on elbows, heads down. They put me there, and at that moment they did nothing—no paperwork, no questions. Only psychological questions: 'How much were you paid?' 'Why are you causing a revolution?'"

"There was a guy, I don't remember exactly how much he said he earned, but it was a normal income. They asked him: 'What, not enough, bastard?' and hit him. The thing is, there was no correct answer to the question 'How much do you earn?' because there was a guy, I don't remember exactly, he had some internship, as I understood from his story. They were paying him some small amount, 600 rubles as far as I remember. They said: 'Stop lying! There are no such salaries in Minsk!' — and hit him."

In the basement, detainees faced aggressive treatment from the officers, who, instead of providing medical assistance, punished any requests or complaints. One man who reported that he suffered from asthma was immediately beaten for mentioning his condition. Some officers only allowed detainees to adopt more comfortable positions after the masked officers left the premises.

"One of us, a middle-aged man—I cannot say his exact age, but he looked much older than me—said he had asthma. He said: 'I have asthma. I cannot stay in this position.' They beat him for that."

"And when I moved, I saw through another person that on my left side there was a guy. He had been knocked out during the arrest and was convulsing; first, his cheek was apparently injured, blood mixed with saliva, foaming. When you get knocked out, that happens. But he was no longer fully coherent. I asked, like, help this guy — these RUVR officers. I said: 'He's convulsing.' They came over and said: 'What's wrong with you? Everything's fine.'"

"He was constantly complaining and threatening them with lawyers or something else. Sometimes he felt unwell, sometimes other things happened. Eventually, they brought him water, and he continued to complain. A police officer approached him and said: 'Do you see? We are not beating you. Why are you screaming here?' He continued his story about lawyers or something like that. Then another officer with red hair and a short haircut came over. She hit him with a baton and said: 'Shut up, bastard!'"

Witnesses indicated that the time spent in the basement was approximately from 7 to 10 p.m., after which some detainees were taken individually or in small groups to the assembly hall for recording personal belongings, completing reports, and fingerprinting. Their appearance was documented on camera, and for this procedure, some detainees were forced to undress almost completely.

"After all 35–37 people were processed, some were taken for fingerprinting, that is, to have their fingerprints taken. Many people were photographed; they conducted video recording of the person directly, undressing them, photographing all tattoos and distinguishing features."

After the masked officers left, the remaining staff behaved fairly politely: the men showed respect, addressed detainees formally ('vous'), carefully recorded all personal items, and allowed people to sit calmly on metal chairs. The exception was one woman, who displayed unwarranted aggression toward detainees.

"A raised tone came only from the woman. She behaved quite aggressively, but again, there was no physical violence."

"There was one woman who, to put it mildly, communicated with hostility, swearing at detainees."

In neighboring offices, staff in black uniforms engaged in routine tasks, laughed, discussed news and everyday topics, including reports of violence by security forces, treating them as jokes. This scene underscores the normalization of violence and the system's indifference to the suffering of detainees, for whom the events at that time were a traumatic experience.

"They were sitting in chairs, discussing the news. One says to another: 'On TUT.BY they write that OMON is beating people,' and they all laugh. Then someone, clearly the local joker, says: 'Why are you like

that? I believe it. And it seems to me, why wouldn't TUT.BY print truthful news about the police? I believe they could have hit someone.' And they all laugh."

After all procedures were completed, most detainees were allowed to sit on chairs in the assembly hall, where at one point there were about 50 detainees. However, people were not even told where they were.

"Despite all this, they didn't say where we were. I told the guys that it was quite possible we were at the Partizansky. When they directly asked, 'Where are we?', we were told: 'What difference does it make to you?'"

Later, one of the officers, a captain sitting at a desk, allowed everyone to approach individually, take their personal belongings, get their phone, and make a short call to their relatives to inform them of their detention, specifying the exact location of the detainees.

"One of the officers sitting at the desk said: 'Alright, everyone come up one by one. Find your phone, find your things, take your phone, and make a call.' So, practically everyone who could, made one call. I suggested that the people who did not have phones also make calls. The officer agreed."

Detainees were not told the specific reasons for their arrest — only that it was standardly "for participation in an unauthorized protest." The arrests were chaotic, often long before any actions had begun, and the detainees understood that all of them had been apprehended illegally.

"A man in a light blue T-shirt, who was threatening everyone with his lawyer, asked: 'Why am I detained, why am I here?' To which he received the answer: 'For participation in an unauthorized protest.' He said: 'I did not participate in any protest, they searched me, there is no need to verify my identity, I have my passport, why am I even being held in this basement?' They simply told him: 'Silence!'"

Overall, all detainees noted the captain's loyalty, who was responsible for recording personal belongings and organizing calls to relatives. He paid attention to the condition of the people, supported them, and behaved extremely politely, trying to ensure at least minimal comfort. Even when other officers tried to interfere and restrict the detainees' rights, the captain remained on their side and demonstrated empathy toward their situation.

"He was 100 % on our side. It was clear that all of this was unpleasant for him, and he tried to smooth things over as much as possible. Unfortunately, his shift ended at 12:00, and night fell. They left us at the police for the night."

"The captain who was describing our personal belongings behaved super politely, even calming people down. You could see that people were beaten and frightened. He calmed everyone and treated everyone with conspicuous politeness, unlike some of his colleagues, who mocked and ridiculed."

Overall, in the assembly hall, ordinary police officers, unlike the plainclothes officers and the masked special forces who had left, displayed a loyal and calm attitude toward the detainees: they allowed relaxed postures and brought water.

"It was clear that they were arguing among themselves: when someone tried to humiliate, beat, or do something else, another would stop them. I even saw a scuffle between them, when one was pulling another away."

"Yes, only the plainclothes officers were harsh. Ordinary officers, patrol staff, the youngest personnel — they were completely calm."

Detainees were taken in small groups to an outdoor portable toilet, which, according to testimonies, did not meet basic sanitary standards.

"They took us to a terrible toilet outside, there was a cesspit — apparently for detainees. It was a portable toilet that, excuse me, was already sinking, the kind you could drown in."

August 11, 2020

"There were about 40–50 people. Everyone was in different conditions: some had not been touched, some were severely beaten, some were asking for help."

— From the testimony of a victim

On the night of August 10–11, 2020, arbitrary detentions continued throughout the city of Minsk, leading to a constant increase in the number of individuals brought to the Partizansky District Police Department. The unlawful use of violence against civilians by security forces continued.

00:00 • 08:00

"Toward the night, everyone started falling asleep — some on the seats, some on the floor, in whatever position they could manage. Around 3 a.m., we heard shouting again, noise. It turned out they had brought new detainees. The cops among themselves called them 'the twenty.' This 'twenty' was processed the same way we were. We heard them being taken into the neighboring basement, where they remained."

"Around 4 a.m., we heard noise in the yard. A vehicle arrived. Immediately we heard many footsteps — probably they were bringing in more detainees. Into the same room where we had initially been taken."

The detention conditions in the basement remained the same as on previous days. Detainees were not provided with adequate conditions: there were no sleeping places, no food, insufficient water, and necessary medications were not provided. At the same time, officers of the Police Department could see that some detainees required urgent medical assistance, yet they did not respond to these circumstances.

"There were about 40 of us in that room. It was the first shift, and they allowed us to talk. We weren't making much noise, just sitting closer to each other: 'How were you detained? What happened to you?' You would see guys next to whom you realized that you had been detained very lightly."

"There was a guy whose face had either been beaten or scraped during the arrest. His entire face was one large abrasion. There was also an overweight man who, apparently, had been struck in the kidneys and abdomen during the arrest, because he had lost control of his bowels, and his jaw had been broken. As I later understood, OMON officers have a particular hostility toward big, heavy men like themselves."

"We asked [to use the toilet and for water], but there was no food. We asked to go to the toilet, and at first they didn't let us, saying it wasn't allowed. Later they started allowing it. Then there was a situation where we said, 'May we go to the toilet?' and they replied: 'Bastards, why do you go so often? We'll beat you every time you go to the toilet.' There was also a situation with that guy who had a metabolic disorder — he needed to drink a lot, and they gave him a lot of water, but then they wouldn't let him go to the toilet."

"At least in my case, they beat my legs a lot. For example, they say: 'Three people to the toilet. Three stand up.' We stand up, hands behind our backs. We leave the basement, face the wall in the corridor. You stand facing the wall and, of course, they hit your legs so you spread them wider. Then when they say 'Right,' I turn right, and the officer swings his leg like a football player and kicks me in the legs. At that time, I didn't yet know that when you're in the police department, you must always move starting with the leg closest to the direction of movement. If they say 'Right,' you start with your right leg. I started with my left; he hit me, kicked me hard in the ankle — surprisingly hard. I began to fall and grabbed the wall. He started shouting, 'Hands behind your back!' and kicked me again. I almost fell again. This happened several times."

During the night, detainees were periodically subjected to unjustified physical violence by certain security officers (presumably from the command staff), while other police officers witnessed this but did not intervene. Witnesses indicate that the approximate time of the mass beating was between 2 and 3 a.m.

"It was at night, around three in the morning, when they brought in another group of people. He burst in, started shouting that we were all scum, and so on. He put everyone on their knees, heads to the floor. I was at the end of the hall, on the other side, so he didn't really reach me, but he went around selectively beating everyone with a baton."

"He hit my friend from Germany and ordered him to take the position again — on his knees, on his elbows. And he said: 'You will stay like this until morning.' The whole situation lasted about 20–30 seconds — he put all 47 people into that position. The escorts did not react at all; they sat quietly."

Some witnesses noted that among the officers who used violence were representatives of various special units.

"After that man left, the officers who had been sitting at the desk just continued sitting there, watching us — basically escorts. They said: 'Well, guys? That was "Almaz.'" The officer who had entered the room said: 'Alright, don't twitch, don't move while they're upstairs. Don't make any unnecessary movements, otherwise everyone will get it.' We stood like that for about 20 minutes. After that, an officer in a blue police shirt came in and said: 'Alright, gentlemen, resume your previous position.'"

A group of approximately 20 detainees, selected according to certain criteria, was held separately from the others. They were subjected to more violence and forced to remain in physically painful positions throughout the night.

"About 20 people were sitting in the basement. When they took us to the toilet, we passed that door and saw them. It seemed they had been on their knees with their faces to the floor the whole night. I honestly can't imagine how that's possible."

"We stood there on our knees in that fear, hands behind our backs. I put my sneakers under my knees — it works perfectly. I hope this advice will never be needed by anyone, but it helps. When you know you're there for the whole night and won't suddenly have to get up and move somewhere, putting sneakers under your knees is the best solution."

08:00 • 16:00

"He simply said something like... 'Beat them so hard that they shit themselves.' ...The scariest thing was standing in those lines, because you could already hear people being called before you, and from the Avtozak you could hear screams — the sounds of blows and screams."

— From the testimony of a victim

On the morning of August 11, 2020, detainees began to be taken out into the inner yard of the Police Department and loaded into paddy wagons. Before being placed into the vehicles, detainees were forced to run through a “corridor” formed by security officers, who delivered brutal baton blows to those running through it.

“As soon as we stepped out of the Police Department into the yard, I immediately understood that we were done for, because I saw a platoon of OMON officers in full gear with batons at the ready, just standing there waiting for us.”

“The same procedure again: an officer ties your hands and hands you over to an OMON officer. The OMON officers formed a corridor leading to the door of the Avtozak, and you walk — or rather run — through this corridor of pain. If you stumble, you get even more. You are beaten continuously: the moment you are handed over to OMON — that’s it, you live in constant beatings. They hit you in that corridor. You stand there, and the guys who were already loaded into the paddy wagon were still being beaten inside. You could hear the sounds, the screams — ‘aaa.’ And you begin to freeze from fear; something similar happens — fear truly paralyzes you, the fear of anticipation, the fear of ending up in that cage. Your heart feels like it’s jumping out of your chest, your pulse skyrockets from fear. You stand there in a real stupor. The officers fastened these plastic restraints on me — and that was it, they handed me over to OMON. I ran very, very fast through it and flew into the paddy wagon like a fish, dove in, jumped onto other people, because they were stacking everyone in the aisle like logs.”

“...the Avtozak with those small compartments (‘cups’). They started putting in the guys who had arrived at night, and one of the officers in the same blue shirt told the men in black uniforms (most likely OMON) that when they arrived in Zhodino, they should ‘go all out on them.’ That is, when unloading them from the paddy wagon in Zhodino, they should put them through hell.”

Inside the paddy wagons, people were forced to lie on top of one another, forming several tightly packed layers. Even inside the cramped vehicle compartments, the beatings continued. Those who did not manage to get in quickly enough were beaten outside.

Such actions created life-threatening conditions — with risks of injury, suffocation, and death.

"I was lucky in a way. Some of the guys were standing when the loading into the paddy wagon began; some couldn't stand — their hands and legs were shaking, some were buckling. When you sat down, it was even worse — you'd get hit a couple of times with batons. I saw guys lying on the floor, one on top of another, in several layers, and I just jumped flat into the pile. A guy, maybe seventeen or eighteen, was thrown on top of me. I understood he was being hit, that he was in pain, and I was lying there, and he was kind of shielding me. I told him: 'Fall between me and the bench.' Eventually he collapsed onto his side and said he had twisted his arm. I said: 'What can we do? Endure it.'"

Police officers divided detainees according to arbitrary criteria: certain groups were subjected to intensified violence — either those considered "more guilty" or those who screamed loudly in pain during beatings.

"They took us all out into the same yard, onto the same place where they had been unloading. We saw — I don't remember how many — I think two paddy wagons with gray compartments. They called out surnames one by one. First they loaded what they called the most guilty — that 'twenty' from the basement. They called that group. You approach the officer, he ties your hands behind your back with a single plastic restraint. And they take you away. During the loading, those cops who had arrived with the paddy wagons were beating them."

"I just remembered another detail: when they loaded us, they counted us by hitting us with batons. You receive a blow and shout your number in order. If you don't shout loudly enough, you get another blow, and another. The louder you screamed from pain or reacted in any way, the harder they beat you. So I tried to stay silent, tried not to make a sound."

The loading process into the paddy wagons was carefully monitored and controlled by plainclothes officers. It was they who gave instructions to the masked officers to brutally beat people.

"They lined us up near the Police Department. They call your surname, and you have to say your first name, patronymic, and possibly your year of birth — I don't remember exactly. And you have to approach walking backwards, with your hands clasped behind you. The first OMON officer who takes you leads you forward while hitting you, hitting you. He hands you over to the second one — he hits you. Then

at the entrance to the paddy wagon. There was also a plainclothes officer who said: 'Pack them in hard!'"

"They started throwing people into the paddy wagon one by one. When they began throwing them in, I heard blows to people's backs, and once people were inside, I heard that they were already being beaten there. So while we were standing and waiting for our surname to be called, we understood that we were about to be thrown in — and that they would immediately start beating us there. The officers who were throwing us in or overseeing the whole procedure gave no commands, said nothing. The only thing I heard a couple of times was: 'Alright, that's enough for this one!'"

The excessive violence by the security forces continued inside the paddy wagon, where officers kept beating people with batons without any provocation, even though the detainees posed no threat to the officers or anyone else. At that time, all detainees had their hands bound with plastic restraints.

"When they called my surname, they threw me face down into the paddy wagon with my hands tied behind my back. There were already people inside. I was one of the last to be thrown in. They just tossed me onto the other bodies lying on the floor. I ended up pressed against someone's legs; the guys were lying on top of other bodies... and all that time the OMON officers were just beating us. Naturally, they started beating me too, without any explanation. They didn't ask any questions, just hit my legs and buttocks. Some guys were hit on the back, and my friend — we had been detained together, he was in one of those two paddy wagons — was hit several times on the head."

During the beatings, the security officers openly expressed hostility toward the detainees because of their political stance against the authoritarian regime in Belarus. While carrying out the unprovoked beatings, the officers attempted to conceal their identities: they wore masks or balaclavas and forced detainees to keep their heads down so they would not be able to remember the officers' faces.

"They were saying: 'What? You wanted a revolution?' Just in that tone — 'You wanted a revolution here?' 'What, you want to kill everyone?' And they just kept beating us with batons. At one point, one of the blows landed around my neck, and from the blow I had a spasm — a kind of convulsion. My whole body... my back arched in the opposite direction. From the force, I tore the plastic restraint

that had been fastened around my wrists, and I remained in that position for about ten seconds. When that blow landed and my body arched like that, I realized that something serious could happen to me physically, and I started shouting. I was shouting: 'I'm in shock.' I was shouting while still in that position. One of the OMON officers heard me yelling: 'Who's in shock here?' — and then continued beating my legs."

16:00 • 20:00

During the day on 11 August, more detainees from the city continued to be brought to the Partizanskoye District Police Department in Minsk. The procedure resembled that of the previous days: detainees were "unloaded" into the courtyard of the Police Department, their personal data were recorded, and they were then taken to basement. At all stages, police officers used unjustified physical violence. According to witnesses, the beatings were directed by higher-ranking officers.

"We arrived at Partizanskoye and started getting out. The OMON guys, to be honest, did not constantly apply that kind of force to us without someone's command. When an operative or an investigator — someone senior in rank — gave the order, then they reacted."

"I got out and stood there. As soon as he saw me, he started hitting me on the head... 'On your knees, on your knees,' and there was constant swearing without end. He started hitting my tailbone. He hit me with his hands and kicked me in the torso, in the chest, in the head — he pushed my head, grabbed it, and slammed my forehead against the asphalt. To lessen the impact, I pressed my head against the asphalt so the blow would not be as strong. A Police Department officer — in uniform, without a mask — saw all of this. Regular police department staff were present, they saw everything, and did nothing..."

"An operative was walking around... You could hear the blows; his phrases were accompanied by the sound of strikes. He constantly threatened: 'If you so much as move the wrong way and I don't like it — it will be hard and miserable for you.' The female officer was just quietly giggling the whole time while I was on my knees — stand up, lie down, stand up, lie down."

"They took us to the back courtyard; there were about 35 people in masks standing there. I came out, standing with my backpack. A man with a distinctive voice approached — most likely someone in command — and started beating me without any reason. He kept repeating, 'Lie face down on the floor, hands behind your head.' He slammed my head against the tiles a couple of times."

During the processing of detainees, officers recorded their personal data, drew up personal search reports, took fingerprints, and carried out video recording. It was obvious to the officers that the detainees had been beaten and required medical assistance; however, they took no steps to provide it.

"Then we were taken for fingerprinting. As I understand it, the Investigative Committee handles that. They took my fingerprints. I immediately told the woman that my left arm had been beaten. There was a large bruise."

"We were supposedly searched; at that moment there were three of us. They took us to the basement, put us in the same position, and struck us with the tip of a baton in the head. The entire time we were in the inspection room, of course, nothing was found on me. An officer hit many people in the liver area; he struck me with the tip of the baton on the buttocks. These blows were accompanied by instructions about what position we should lie in. Then the formal questioning ended, and we were taken to a basement room resembling a gym. They forced us into a kneeling position."

"After that we were taken for a search. They brought us in, and we also lay down 'with our legs tucked under us.' We remained in that position; there was a lot of swearing and threats."

Some detainees were taken directly to the basement, and their formal processing was carried out later.

"They brought us to the Police Department. Here's how it was: they told us to bend over, hands behind our backs, and led us into some kind of basement. There were already several people there. They told us the same thing — not to look around. There were already several officers there, as I understand, OMON officers, wearing balaclavas. They had T-shirts, apparently with 'OMON' written on them. They immediately ordered us to stand by the wall and not move. On the floor I saw blood — apparently someone had been bleeding."

"Then they took us somewhere else, something like an assembly hall. There were also women there. In that hall, women — I understood them to be officers — were filling out inventory reports. We just sat there. Then we were taken back."

The detention conditions in the basement were similar to those described above. Out of fear of violence by the officers, detainees barely moved and remained silent.

"...when the adrenaline wore off, the only thing I wanted was water. I knew I needed to take just one sip. Apparently something remained in the bottle; I tried to drink as little as possible so I wouldn't need to go to the toilet. Those who disobeyed, tried to ask questions, or shifted around were beaten. At that point I understood that I would just stand quietly, that's all. Almost twenty-four hours."

"There were people who had been severely beaten upon arrival. In short, those who were brought in had been beaten. But they were beaten not by the ones guarding us, but by those who transported them."

"That's how we spent the night. It was cold, the floor was concrete. We sat, stood, lay down — everything only with permission. Some managed to fall asleep, others did not."

"By the end, there were about twenty of us. We were taken to the basement after the search — during the search we were kneeling, twisted up like that. And he kept walking around, lashing out in anger: 'Is this the change you wanted?' Constant swearing — there was hardly a single neutral Russian word."

Not all officers directly used physical force; however, all of them witnessed what was happening. In addition to beatings, detainees were subjected to insults and threats.

"...one masked man came up and cut off the hair of a guy with long braids using a kitchen knife. He was enraged. It seemed he was not a regular officer, but one of those who transported us — apparently someone senior."

"We just lay there for six hours. When this oper [operative], I don't know if it was an oper or an investigator, approached, he was the one giving the commands. Whenever he was present, all the violent

actions began. Otherwise, it was clear... I didn't notice excessive aggression from the masked guys. They were asking: 'Will you drink or not?' They could conduct a normal dialogue. Obviously, you had to keep your head down: if you did something wrong, they would slightly adjust you — but they didn't do anything harmful."

20:00 • 24:00

For the next group of detainees in the evening of August 11, 2020, in the yard of the Partizansky RUVR in Minsk, arbitrary physical violence was used both by the officers performing the arrests and by staff. The Police Department officers continued to record the passport data of detainees, take fingerprints, and carry out operational photo/video recording.

"My aluminum monopod was broken. Apparently, they smashed it against me. At the RUVR, I was first hit with a rubber baton, and then someone said to a policeman, 'This is the guy with the baton,' and he hit me several more times with my monopod."

"They brought us to the Partizansky, from there we were unloaded face down. Look, while we were running up, they made us sit on the asphalt, on our knees, legs crossed, forehead pressed to the asphalt. If you didn't press your forehead — you got beaten. While running, we were also beaten. But, again, after I was beaten in the bus, I think they didn't hit me further — only guided me slightly. But yes, we were beaten. With batons."

"We were taken out of the bus and laid on the ground — right on the street. Those who stood out during identification — when they asked for surname, year of birth, place of work — were beaten with batons."

"When I was 'unloaded' from the bus, I was twisted so that I could only see my shoelaces. My hands were tied behind my back with plastic zip ties, and the OMON officer was pulling them upwards, and to prevent my arms from twisting, my body bent forward with my head down. I heard an OMON officer say to the receiving policemen: 'Take them hard!' Then I felt my wrists change hands, and they led me into the building. There was a long corridor with turns, and the policeman who was leading me was hitting my head against walls and doors. He broke something with my head. There were about seven hits at each turn. They did not remove my helmet [bicycle helmet]. After the hits against the wall, my helmet cracked, but a bicycle helmet is

designed to break on the first impact to protect the cyclist's head. It should break only under very strong blows. The hits felt like when you play football, standing in a defensive 'wall' during a free kick, and the ball hits the back of your head."

During the application of physical violence to detainees by unidentified persons, the officers were present, who did not stop this violence, even though they were fully aware of its illegal nature against detainees who had committed no unlawful acts and posed no threat.

"They brought us, lined us against the wall, hands tied behind our backs, and on our knees. So, face down... forehead against the asphalt. And for each person, a woman with some unidentified object in a mask — she was in civilian clothing — asked for surname, first name, patronymic. Whether this woman or the operative was the one hitting, it is unclear. They just hit: 'Surname!' — a hit follows. 'First name!' — a hit follows. My brother, of course, was joking around. They ask: 'Year of birth?' He says: 'Ninety-four.' They say: 'Fk! We're asking the year of birth!' He says: 'What did I tell you?' They keep hitting him, but he jokes. '...Ninety-four, fk.' In fact, he was telling the truth all along, and they kept hitting him until he explained the exact month and day."

"When they asked me where I work, I named the place without specifying the type of ownership. They asked — JSC or LLC. I said, 'I don't know, I recently started working there, the company is registered in California, maybe they have different forms, I'm not sure.' They grabbed me by the hair, slammed my head against the asphalt, and asked: 'So, JSC or LLC?' I said, 'I don't know,' and they slammed me against the asphalt again: 'We'll find out.' I said, 'Let it be JSC.' They asked: 'Let it be, or for sure?' And again, slammed me against the asphalt, three or four times. At that moment I had a large bloody mark [the witness pointed to his forehead], but that was all documented as well."

As before, the officers of the Partizansky did not even attempt to follow formal legal procedures for processing detainees or ensure their procedural rights. At the same time, they threatened physical harm to anyone who tried to read the documents being drawn up or ask questions.

"I was presented with the protocol, and I signed it... I tried to read it. They said: 'What are you reading? You'll get beaten right now...'"

"I asked the person who was filming me: 'Let me take off my sweat-shirt so the injuries are visible on the video.' Because I had a huge bruise on my arm, a hematoma, and my fingers on my right hand were numb. I thought something might be broken because it was very hard to lift my arm and put it behind my back. He said with a smirk: 'Nothing will be visible, don't hope for it.'"

In the evening of August 11, the process of detaining people did not stop, so the Partizansky continued to receive detainees from different parts of Minsk. Violence by both the special unit officers and personnel continued.

"Then it was my turn, I remember the blue glamorous sneakers they hit me in the eye with. He hit me right in the head. Asked for surname, first name, patronymic. I just asked him: 'Why are you hitting me? Don't you have anything better to do?' And this 'genius' just stopped hitting me. After that, they didn't hit me anymore, at all."

"But at first, when they just brought us into the Police Department, they made us lie on the asphalt, asking — name, surname, workplace. There was already a woman — apparently an RUVR officer — and if she didn't hear something clearly, or if someone didn't say something clearly enough, the OMON officer would beat the person who didn't pronounce it properly... Therefore, people mostly switched to shouting. 'I am so-and-so, so-and-so!'"

Newly brought detainees were kept outdoors for extended periods in unnatural positions, causing them severe physical and psychological suffering. Police officers continued to beat detainees even while collecting personal data.

"And they asked everyone the same questions: full name, place of residence, date of birth, probably place of work for everyone, specialty, position, where and by whom you work — those sorts of questions. When it was my turn, I also answered all the questions. They asked what I do for work; I said 'software engineer' — in a tone that basically implied, 'who else could it be' — and that's when I got hit in the back with a baton. I don't know who it was, an officer or an OMON officer; they were all wearing masks."

The officers openly admitted that what was happening had nothing to do with the established procedure for processing detainees. Protocols were either not drawn up or were falsified, and they clearly did not reflect the real circumstances.

"Of course, we didn't have protocols. It was late, already 10 PM. I understood we would be sitting there for a whole day. When we asked the person who searched us and guarded us all night whether we would have protocols or not, he said directly: 'They make the protocols up.'"

"They didn't have time to write protocols for everyone. To skip ahead, I was released that time without a protocol. I think for many, they didn't manage to draw up protocols at all."

"Then I signed everything and sat on the bench: we were waiting to be taken for fingerprinting and video recording. Then a captain in formal uniform — white shirt, trousers, shoes — came. He called 3-4 people at a time and took them for fingerprinting and filming. He was completely shocked by what was happening. It was clear he didn't approve of any of it. I also asked him about a doctor — how we could document the injuries. He said: 'No way, forget it. Nothing will happen here. This is total madness. Just do what they tell you.'"

Some detainees were immediately placed in the basement without any procedural processing. Once there, officers searched them and forced them into unnatural positions that caused pain and, in some cases, led to loss of consciousness. Physical violence was applied by law enforcement officers. Both men and women detainees were held together.

"They took us to the ROVD, immediately threw us into the basement. First, they laid us down, checked us further. Then they lifted us, hands behind our backs, no cuffs, forehead had to press against the wall. I had a bloody mark here [points to forehead], it was very painful, and at that moment my head started spinning like crazy, I stood for 2-3 minutes, then I fainted."

"They dragged me into the basement, they were beating people, they told me: 'On your knees!' and cross your ankles, but it was practically impossible because they were hitting my left thigh at the same time... I have a photo and video; you can count the hits. There were many — for example, 10. I also had bruises on my back later, but that's minor... The main blows were to my thigh. He was hitting me while I tried to cross my legs; at some point I realized I couldn't, he kept hitting me, I understood he was just going to beat me up. At one point, I started pretending to cry, literally playing on pity, and he said: 'Why are you crying, kid?' — something like that. That lasted 10 seconds, which

was enough for me to get up as he wanted, so he would stop beating me."

"Before asking for medicine, he said he was suffocating, could he stand up, and someone allowed him to stand. I heard that, and I realized I was also on the edge, so I asked: 'Can I stand too?' They allowed me, and everyone else. I stood up; I felt very bad — my head was spinning and I was nauseous, I could barely stand. Thank God, after about fifteen minutes... [they allowed us to sit however we wanted]."

"About 15 minutes later, another group of detainees arrived. They took us one by one, made us kneel, hands tied with plastic cuffs, and hit us with batons on the buttocks and thighs while asking for personal information: full name, date of birth, address. If you spoke quietly, they would hit harder. For those who had lost their voice at the rallies, it was extremely difficult. It was very strange because they asked the same questions on the bus, then again when we were brought into the hall, and 15 minutes later, when they made us kneel — they asked the same questions again while hitting us. The girls were standing next to us."

Later, around 10–11 PM, some detainees in small groups were taken to other basement rooms of the Police Department, where search protocols and other documents were processed. These rooms were smaller, with metal chairs along the walls for questioning and registration.

"After a while, they started calling us to go and be processed in a room, there were seats, these little metal chairs. They first searched us there: everything we had was recorded — shoelaces, belt, all standard procedures."

The conditions in the basement for the detainees remained the same as the previous night: groups were taken to the toilet, and only one bottle of water was provided for everyone. Officers noticed the poor physical condition of the detainees and their injuries, but instead of a proper human response, they allowed themselves jokes and outright mockery. Detainees were kept in uncomfortable positions, further increasing their suffering.

"In Partizanskoye, as I understand, they have these basement training areas — probably for the future. At that time, they were unfinished — just bare walls, pipes — simply a basement. There were about

30 people there, plus ours. In total, I think there were 72 people. There were minors, who were taken away a little later at night."

"There was a person who was moaning very loudly, saying that he had been jumped on in the bus, probably broke some ribs, complained of pain, and constantly groaned loudly. This joking person [the officer] asked him: 'Who, the fleas were jumping on you?'"

After midnight, the officers allowed the detainees to take any positions. However, the strictness of posture control depended on the officer who was directly guarding the detainees.

"There we stood for some time, then after a while they started allowing us to lie down or sit somehow, then they said: 'Sit however you like.' It was a concrete floor, and we had to spend the night on it."

The concrete firing range, where the detainees were held, was not suitable for human habitation. There were no places to sleep or sit, nor access to water or toilets. Detainees noted that there were still signs of beatings in the room.

"There was blood on the walls, blood from foreheads when guys pressed their heads against the wall."

"They brought us again to that little basement, I was standing next to a pool of blood, a puddle of blood and cotton. Maybe someone's nose was broken — it was a decent-sized pool."

Later, detainees in one of the basement rooms were allowed to sit on chairs.

"Everyone was badly beaten: some had broken faces, some broken noses, heads split open. One guy — the cyclist they took on Pobedy Square — they smashed his bicycle helmet with a baton just for fun."

August 12, 2020

00:00 • 04:00

New police vans kept arriving at the Police Department, bringing another batch of detainees. During the night, two groups arrived in the city — 40 and

70 people. People were roughly thrown out of the vehicles. This happened very quickly. Those who could not react in time fell straight to the ground. In the dark, loud shouts were heard: "Face down! Face to the ground!" Some detainees were hit with batons on their backs and legs. People were forced to kneel and remain in that position.

"...when they unloaded me, I fell. They just threw me, and I either couldn't land on my feet or my legs were so numb — very, very numb — that I couldn't even feel them. I tried to say that my legs were numb, but they just grabbed me by the scruff of the neck and threw me to the ground. I even hit my head not just on the ground, but directly on the curb and injured my head."

The new arrivals were met by a corridor formed by masked officers, ten on each side. People were driven with batons first into the basement and then into the assembly hall, forced to stand facing the wall.

"There were about 70 of us in the room where we were held. About 20 of them, I think, were women. Everything was documented, and a record of personal belongings was made."

About 40 detainees were taken to the basement, laid face down along the wall. They remained in this position until staff came to take fingerprints, record personal data, verify the place and reasons for detention, and photograph them from three sides. Nobody was allowed to call or notify relatives. The officers then drew up an inventory protocol for confiscated items, but no copies of the documents were given to the detainees.

"Those who were tied up were beaten. Apparently, they resisted somehow. I received a couple of hits, I think, to my legs. We didn't see who was hitting us, but from conversations among the police, it became clear that those who processed us — essentially, they were the ones beating. And those who were tied up — they were supposed to be beaten harder."

"...when we were brought and sent to the basement for the first time, five guys were singled out for special treatment — they had somehow 'stood out,' and were beaten with batons as best as the officers could."

That night, 8–10 women were held in the basement. Officers showed them slightly more leniency — providing chairs and allowing them to sit. Among the detainees were many random passersby: people riding bicycles nearby or residents in the city center who were caught up in the sweep by chance.

"There were a lot of girls. Next to me sat a girl — honestly, she was probably out for a run or something, because she was in sportswear. She definitely wasn't at a rally. She was somewhere running, and they detained her. She said: 'Call my husband.' She was sitting there crying, and nobody let her make a call. Somehow, a guy managed to persuade someone, I don't know how, but in the end he was released after his father-in-law called."

"The girls were sitting on chairs. One girl really broke down crying. They said: 'Why are you crying?' I said: 'Maybe she's cold.' She was wearing just a t-shirt. Then somehow they brought her a jacket."

Detainees noted that some staff from the Police Department behaved more reasonably than the masked officers — they did not participate in beatings, provided water, and allowed detainees to use the toilet upon request.

"They made us kneel on the floor, head down, so we couldn't see anything. Later, when the OMON or the escorts who brought us left, the RUVB officers allowed us to stand so our legs wouldn't get stiff."

The beaten and exhausted people spent the night on the concrete floor of the same basement.

"After we were beaten and processed by the local cops, they removed the plastic ties from our hands. We spent the entire night without them."

Gradually, people began to talk to each other, and some managed to nap for a couple of hours on the cold concrete floor.

"At seven o'clock they got us up, took us to the toilet — which was outside somewhere. Then they made us wait until the supervisors arrived. They came around eight, maybe a bit later — it was already quite early in the morning."

Detainees described strong psychological pressure during these hours: the officers manipulated their state, forcing them to obey every order. People experienced fear and uncertainty.

*"They intimidated us, saying: 'That's it, you're done, at least 40 days minimum, and all sorts of things,' — there was **severe emotional pressure**. When we asked, 'Can we make a call?' at RUVB, they said: 'Call from Okrestina.'"*

"They moved us to another room. There were many chairs, everyone was seated, called in turn, they made protocols, took an inventory of the items we had. Then we had to give a standard introduction on camera: name, date of birth, address, occupation. Then they rolled our fingerprints, and that was it. Back against the wall again, and that's how we stood."

04:00 • 08:00

According to detainees, most of the time they were kept with hands behind their backs, facing the wall, unable even to look around. They were constantly given orders — made to lie down, then stand up — maintaining constant tension.

"Yes, it was like that at first. Then they told us all to stand, and everyone stood. We stood for, I don't know, twenty minutes... Then everyone was told to lie down, and everyone lay down."

Later, with the arrival of a new shift of staff, the treatment of detainees became noticeably milder.

"Basically, then an officer came in and said: 'I don't give a damn how you lie, sit, stand, or fart — I don't care. You can take any position you want, as long as it's facing the wall.' But I'll say, people didn't immediately believe it — everyone still stayed in the positions they had been in, because before that, if you did something wrong... any independent action on your part, you'd get hit, either with a hand or a baton, or something else. You constantly hear someone being hit, and other things."

While one group of detainees was kept standing along the wall, others in the basement managed to get some sleep. During this time, two officers removed the plastic ties from men's hands and allowed them not only to lie on the floor but also to sit or stand.

The only requirement was to always face the wall.

"This guy, wearing a skull mask, even turned off the lights and slept with us. He hugged his baton and slept on a chair because he said: 'We're tired ourselves.' ... He was very calm, didn't talk to anyone, only gave water or took someone to the toilet. Nobody expected such

a sudden change... They thought we would get beaten up, but it turned out to be somewhat more or less okay."

*"They even let us sleep, this guy turned off the light, and I even heard him talking to his superior... The superior came in and said: 'Why did you let these bastards lie down here? Get them all up.' Basically, he wanted to do something to us... But he told him to f** off and said: 'I'm guarding here, I do as I want, and you leave,' or something like that."*

08:00 • 12:00

In the morning, around 7:00, after some relief during the night, the detainees were raised again. The officers now stated that according to instructions, they were supposed to stand all the time. Detainees were psychologically pressured to break their will and demonstrate the officers' superiority. Various staff approached them in turn, reporting news about the "failed revolution."

"Psychologically, they already started killing and finishing us off. In the morning they came one by one and began reading alleged news: that Sviatlana Tikhanovskaya is finished, everything in Belarus is over, everything is calm and peaceful. And they used this to pressure us. We didn't know anything, no information came to us. That ten people went to the factory, ten people shouted at MZKT, an engineer came and said: 'Guys, don't mess around,' — and everyone went back to work. That's the kind of 'news' we got."

"There was a supply officer walking around... just insulting everyone: 'You bastards.' Insulting our mothers for giving birth to us, calling us all sorts of names. No one asked anyone how they ended up here. Everyone ended up there from the rally. "You came from the rally." Which rally, what rally on the 11 th, no one even knew..."

After 8:00 a.m., an officer, presumably the head of the District Police Department, arrived, after which a small group of detainees (around 14 people) was released from the assembly hall. The men released were those who previously had no police records or administrative offenses, as well as women and elderly people. However, many who were on the release list remained in the Police Department, as the officers feared that severely injured people would be seen in that state outside.

"I was on that list, but he saw that my face was smashed and I was covered in blood, and decided it was inappropriate to release someone like that onto the street."

"They released, I know, some women. They released the elderly. There was one old man, when we talked about the 24-hour detention, he said: 'No, I can't, I have to be with my granddaughter tomorrow,' and they let him go."

"Until 9 a.m., the detainees were still standing. They were no longer allowed to lean against the wall, and it was really hard for people to stand. They asked: 'Can I lean?', 'Can I sit a little?' because everyone had various health problems. Around 9 a.m., I wrote a statement that I had no claims regarding my belongings. They gave me a small bag with my things."

Those who were not included in the release group understood that they had no chance of going home soon.

"We no longer hoped to get out, because we already understood that if they didn't take us, things would not happen quickly. It was such a mess that half, even 80 percent of the people, were all bruised: some had faces smashed, some — hands, some — legs."

People were divided into groups of 25 for placement in paddy wagons (autozaks). They were escorted out of the RUVB by masked officers.

"At 11 a.m., when the paddy wagons arrived, they made us all stand against the wall with our hands behind our backs, put plastic ties on our hands, and began loading us into the vehicles. While we were being loaded into the paddy wagons, no one beat us. I don't know how many paddy wagons there were, but they brought enough to take all the detainees at once. They were gray paddy wagons, with cages, grates, designed for criminals. There were four small cages, each for two people, and one large cage for about five people. People were packed tightly into the cages. I was in a two-person cage, but there were three of us. In that cage, it was cramped for two, and with three, we couldn't even sit. While we were traveling, the vehicle shook, and we tried to lean on each other to avoid falling, since our hands were tied behind our backs. Due to the large number of people in the paddy wagon, it was suffocating; there was hardly any air to breathe."

The detainees who had spent the night in the basement were brought outside around 10 a.m. It was cool outside, and people stood in a single line for about an hour in light summer clothes (shorts, T-shirts). Everyone already had plastic ties on their hands from the basement.

"We stood for a very long time: considering we hadn't slept all night, you sleep standing and see images in your mind while standing. Imagination starts to play tricks, you doze off from exhaustion. And then some police officer decided to show that he's the boss here, some jerk. He started asking everyone who's who. But before that, each person was hit with a baton along the spine."

Before being placed in the paddy wagons, detainees were forced to give their personal data: surname, first name, patronymic, and date of birth. This procedure was often accompanied by violence, a kind of "marking" of detainees. People were made to stand face-down, and during roll call, individual officers beat people with batons along the spine, demanding quick answers. The blows were severe; one detainee lost consciousness twice before he could give his information. A tall, heavysset man, about 40–45 years old in police uniform, was noted for particular cruelty.

"They brought us outside, we stood on the street for probably about an hour. We were just standing face-down... They started hitting the spine. The baton was parallel to the spine, striking so that it ended at the back of the head. You had to say your first name, last name, and patronymic during that time—you get hit while you answer quickly. The blows were very strong. One guy lost consciousness twice, unable to say his name, surname, and patronymic in time. They were beating him, he fell to his knees, they lifted him up again, he came to a little, and then they questioned him again."

"In general, we stood there for an hour. They gave us a lecture about how to live, how worthless we all are, and so on. Then this officer—apparently their commander—shouted: 'Where is your courage? Long live Belarus! Shout "Long live Belarus!'" He came up and hit someone who wasn't looking the right way. People were beaten, properly beaten—some got hit, some didn't. And all of us later had a mark left on our necks."

After this, people continued to kneel with their hands tied behind their backs. The plastic ties used by the officers were pulled so tightly that the locks dug into the skin, causing severe numbness. People complained of pain and

numbness in their fingers; many had bruised wrists. Their hands swelled, and the plastic left marks on the skin.

"So, we were beaten, and then we stood for another hour on our knees with these ties. Our hands were very numb, and the locks dug right into the skin. The ties were plastic, with small locks. They were tightened so much that the marks remain to this day. The bruises are fading, but the marks are still there."

People stood like this outside for quite a long time, but no vehicle arrived. After the beatings and prolonged standing outside, all detainees were taken back into the building. They were made to stand facing the wall, and for a short time, the plastic ties were removed.

"Then, for some reason, we were led back into that room downstairs, and the ties were cut. We stood there for another hour, just facing the wall, and no one was hitting us there."

After a pause in the basement, people were again brought outside. Their hands were tied with plastic cuffs, and they were loaded into paddy wagons. Detainees were made to pass through a "corridor" of officers holding batons. Blows were delivered to the back, head, legs, and arms. People were crammed into the vans tightly, thirty or more per vehicle. Eventually, this group was transported to the temporary detention facility (IVS).

"When you enter the paddy wagon, when you exit the paddy wagon... you walk through a corridor of officers standing with batons and hitting you with them — wherever they hit: on the legs, buttocks, back, arms, or head. I was hit on the head about four times... I had to focus on not falling and running faster."

"The first time we were brought out, for some reason, we weren't taken away — maybe there was a break, or something else — the paddy wagon left. The second time, around 1 p.m., we were brought into the yard again, our hands tied with white plastic cuffs. For most of us, the cuffs were so tight that our hands turned blue. At around 1:10 p.m., we were finally loaded into the paddy wagon and taken to Okrestina."

12:00 • 16:00

Those who remained in the basement awaited their turn. Detainees were constantly forced to lie on the concrete floor, kneel, or suddenly stand. The same treatment was applied to the women, without exception.

"On the one hand, maybe it was a little better—to relieve some of the strain after standing for ten hours. But lying on the concrete floor was far from pleasant, and you could get sick. We lay on the concrete floor, stood on our knees, and that's how they played with us: 'Lie down! On your knees! Stand up!'"

Uncertainty and unpredictability exhausted people the most. This group remained in the Police Department until approximately 3 p.m. on August 12.

Around noon, people in plain clothing arrived at the Police Department, and some activity among the officers began.

"They said that 'some of you will be lucky—those with no administrative offenses will go home today. Those less lucky will go to Okrestina, and the unlucky ones will be sent to Zhodino.'"

As a result, nearly all the women were released, although two or three remained in the Police Department, very anxious that they were not being let go.

"They were worried and said, 'Well, let us go too!' 'But I haven't done anything.' Nobody explained anything to them, didn't tell them anything: 'Shut up and sit!'"

Around 3–4 p.m., the detainees went through another "corridor" of officers with batons—the way to the paddy wagon—and were taken from the Police Department.

20:00 • 24:00

Detentions in the city did not stop, and new groups of people continued to be brought to the Police Department. People were received according to the same practiced procedure: beaten when exiting the paddy wagon, forced to lie face down on the asphalt, all belongings confiscated, and documents processed.

"At the Partizansky Police Department, when I got out of the paddy wagon, I was kicked twice. Once I was kicked—I fell, the second time I was kicked—I fell again. Then they said, 'Stop hitting, or you'll hit your head on the asphalt.' I got up, they told us to run face down; I first fell on the grass, then they shouted, 'Lie on the asphalt,' and that's it—I lay down. Inside the Police Department itself, nobody hit us anymore."

Detainees were taken into a basement room, where they stood on their knees for a short time, then were told: "You can stand freely"—and were given water.

"Then we were brought upstairs to the assembly hall. There they took fingerprints, filmed something on camera, videos about where you work, how old you are, where you study. Then we were taken to a cell, and we sat there until morning, waiting to see what would happen next."

At that time, there were eight people in the basement. People had to sleep on the floor.

"But the Police Department officers who were there, probably the ones on duty, treated us somewhat normally, more or less. They let us get water, go to the toilet. They opened the door because it was stuffy in the cell. The lights were on at night. There were no proper places to sleep, just small benches."

According to another detainee, starting around 10 p.m., during the reception of new detainees, continuous beatings were happening. Female Police Department officers were processing detainees, making inventories of their belongings, while the masked and helmeted officers, without any restraint, mocked and abused the people.

Those who were unable to walk due to beatings during detention were simply dragged along stairs and corridors, causing them additional suffering and injuries.

"They were dragging me—I couldn't even move my legs anymore, they just dragged me like a stretcher. My legs didn't move at all, they just pulled me along stairs, through all sorts of corridors. They brought me to a place where there were already many people, a reception area. Everyone was handing over what they had: money, phones. People were also beaten in the reception area. Women were sitting there, making inventories, and right in front of these

women, without any restraint, they were hitting everyone however they wanted. If someone asked an extra question—they got it immediately. They filmed on camera too. Beatings... slaps on the butt, blows to the back of the head—countless...”

It was difficult for detainees to identify which specific law enforcement unit the officers belonged to, as they constantly changed. The people delivering them were in one uniform and equipment, and in the Police Department, completely different officers were carrying out the beatings. Detainees noted that the Police Department officers themselves did not participate in the beatings—they only handled processing and guarding.

After processing, people were taken to a basement room, where beatings continued. People were beaten there until about 1:00 a.m. the next day.

“...And everyone who came in, everyone had to lie down on the floor. Stomach on the concrete, face down, don't look left or right. Anyone who raised their head was immediately hit. And then it began. They beat those lying down however they wanted. They ran over us, just hitting. If someone talked, they were beaten twice as much.”

Around 11:45 p.m., another group of detainees was brought to the Police Department.

“They laid us down in the yard of the Partizansky Police Department. Everyone was pulled out of the paddy wagon and told to lie down on the ground outside. Two officers approached us lying down and recorded our first and last names. One officer did it harshly: approached and hit hard, people were screaming. Another approached and poked a baton into your back. After that, you were taken by an officer in a 'swallow' hold [detainees were escorted in a bent-forward position with their hands cuffed behind their backs] and led into the Police Department.”

A detainee recalled that everyone was led to the basement, forced to kneel, face down, after which they were called individually for an inventory of their belongings and had information about their detention recorded on camera. During the inventory, if anyone was found with suspicious items (pocket knives, stationery knives, white bracelets), they were taken to the basement where the other detainees were, led to a corner, and beaten severely.

“They also took me; the riot police officer hit me with a baton about three times. From his voice, I didn't hear that he was from the Police

Department. Most likely, he was one of those who transported us. Then, when everyone's belongings were inspected and recorded, everyone was returned to the basement, and the riot police officer carried out 'educational work.' While we were sitting on our knees, they ran batons across our buttocks."

One officer, in particular, was especially brutal towards detainees.

"One of them wore a mask with teeth and a smile. By the way, he behaved extremely inappropriately, if I can put it that way. There was also a detainee in boots who had a small stationery knife. In total, we were in the basement for about 3-4 hours; if they passed over us, we would get hit once or twice multiple times. That detainee was beaten until he had no strength left. The officer kept hitting him with a baton... He also ran his baton across our backs. We were then allowed to lie down, hands behind our backs. That guy in boots, the one with the knife, got hit the most—ten times more than the rest."

There was an incident when masked officers made detainees sit on the floor and forced them to sing the national anthem of the Republic of Belarus.

"In front of the cameras, they made us sit on the tiles. We sang the anthem twice. At that time, there were only threats: 'Sing or we will beat you.' Everyone who knew the anthem sang; those who didn't, had to hum along."

Men were placed in cells, seven per cell. There was no violence inside the cells; detainees were given water and allowed to go to the toilet. They stayed there all night until lunchtime on August 13.

August 13, 2020

00:00 • 04:00

The detainees brought that night were unloaded in the yard of the Police Department and forced to lie face down on the ground. In this position, they were required to give their personal details: name, date of birth, workplace, and home address. Any hesitation or uncertain answer was met with blows: those who spoke too slowly or unclearly were beaten with batons.

"...when we were lying face down, the officers... I mean, you lie down... I was the last to be unloaded. They even managed to throw a stone directly at my head..."

The officers led the detainees into the basement and lined them up along the wall. Those still able to stand were ordered to remain standing; those who could not were allowed to sit. Everyone was strictly forbidden to lift their heads and had to look at the floor. Detainees were called individually to the assembly hall, where four female officers conducted an inventory of their personal belongings. After that, each person was taken separately to a corridor where their personal data was recorded on video.

"All belongings were taken: shoelaces, everything from our pockets... They led us into the corridor, one by one, and recorded on camera who we were and where we were being detained..."

Some of the processed detainees were taken to a shooting-range-style basement, where at that time there were eight people. According to their reports, no violence was used against them then; people were given water and allowed to go to the toilet as needed.

"Then all the men were taken to the cells. There, the Police Department officers... treated us humanely, unexpectedly... They said: 'If you need water or the toilet—knock.' When someone went out, they kept the door open to ventilate the room better. When walking, you didn't have to face the wall or keep your hands behind your back. Just walk calmly, as long as the doors remained open and you were visible."

Around 1 a.m., the detainees were led out of the basement and lined up in a row. Shortly afterward, representatives of the leadership of the security forces appeared. Witnesses got the impression that they had come to inspect the detainees and were possibly looking for someone in particular.

After that, people were again taken to the basement and forced to lie face down on the concrete floor. At that time, there were about 15–20 people in the room.

The masked officers kept rotating, and each newcomer would beat the detainees.

"Two of them were sitting quietly on a bench the whole time. They didn't even seem to be in gear, just regular police quietly sitting."

But those in masks, helmets, and full equipment—they rotated and abused people. They beat all parts of the body, without any restraint.”

*“...when we were lying in that basement, people were being beaten hard. When I arrived, I couldn’t find a place to lie down because **everything was soaked in blood.**”*

The defenseless people lying on the floor were beaten with hands, feet, and batons for more than three hours. Some detainees still had the plastic handcuffs on their wrists, which were not removed until transfer to the pretrial detention center (IVS).

“By feet, hands... Apparently, some also got hit with batons. I mostly got hit by hands or feet. You lie on the floor face down, on your stomach. You were not allowed to turn your head left or right. If you turned your head, they could approach and kick you in the face. If you removed your hands from behind your back, they could step on your foot with their boots. And all this went on for about three hours... After the second time they took us to the basement, we were held there for about another hour. Then we were finally allowed to sit on our knees for a while.”

Among the detainees were several women. One witness noted that violence was not applied to the women. Around 3 a.m., some of them were released from the Police Department.

“And also, I am pretty sure we were lucky because we were in that particular squad, I think. In the Police Department, we were helped, and there were women with us, again, the OMON didn’t touch them—they... maybe, I don’t know... their hands weren’t tied, they weren’t beaten. One officer told a girl: ‘Be quiet, stay calm. Don’t ask questions—your friends will be better off.’ They were released from the Police Department around 3 a.m., and the officer even took them to the Traktorny Zavod station near the metro and said: ‘From here, you’re on your own.’”

08:00 • 12:00

The men who were taken to the portable toilets were also beaten outside.

“When they were taken to the toilet, some were hit. They asked for your surname. You would say your surname, and then they would

start hitting. Maybe it was a different shift. Apparently, they had an order to hit certain people. Some were beaten selectively. And when we were standing in the toilet, I overheard a conversation between two masked officers. One asked: 'Who brought them in yesterday? OMON or Rosarmiya [Russian Army]?' The other said: 'Rosarmiya.' Not the Russian National Guard, not Russians—Rosarmiya. There, they didn't beat much. Only selectively. And if they did, not seriously. Spanking, smacks on the head—I consider that not really beating."

Around 9 a.m., the detainees were prepared for transfer to the detention facility on Okrestina Street. People were lined up in the yard, and the masked officers began forcefully driving them into police vans. Detainees were made to run with their hands tied behind their backs, and during this process many received blows from batons from officers standing along the way.

"They seated us in the police van. We waited a very long time, it was stuffy, everyone was sweaty. The sun was shining on the van... there was no ventilation. During the whole trip from the Police Department to Okrestina, they turned on the ventilation only twice."

"Then around 12 p.m., they brought everyone out, counted us by name. Again, some were beaten selectively, and we were packed into the van so tightly that we traveled like sardines in a can."

12:00 • 16:00

By 2 p.m., the last detainees from Partizansky Police Department were taken away. All of them were transferred to various detention facilities—for example, to the Okrestina Street detention center in Minsk, as well as detention centers located in Slutsk and Zhodino.

"Around 1 p.m., they transferred us. In the gray police van, it was very hot on the 13 th."

CONSEQUENCES: INJURIES AND HARM TO DETAINEES

“People were lying on the floor in their own excrement, mixed with bloodied clothing.”

— From a victim's testimony

Between August 8 and 13, 2020, dozens of detained participants of peaceful protests at the Partizansky Police Department in Minsk were beaten with batons and kicked, held for hours with their hands tied, and denied medical care. Many sustained serious physical injuries, ranging from fractures and knocked-out teeth to traumatic brain injuries. The following details the consequences of these tortures, as confirmed by eyewitness testimony.

Physical Injuries Among the Detainees

Many of the documented victims were subjected to beatings during detention and while held at the Partizansky Police Department. The main blows were inflicted with rubber batons, as well as fists and feet. This led to multiple bodily injuries of varying severity. According to eyewitness accounts, at least 10 of approximately 57 detainees were beaten very severely—to the point that they lay bleeding on the floor, barely able to move—while the others suffered more “minor” injuries, such as bruises to the head, back, and other parts of the body.

"The injury, according to the patient, was sustained on 11.08.20 at around 12:00 in a vehicle on the territory of the Partizansky Police Department. The injuries were caused by beatings by unknown individuals in black uniforms and masks. The injury was inflicted with rubber batons. The patient did not lose consciousness. There were convulsive episodes in the vehicle during the injury. Complaints included pain in the neck, pain in the right chest, and pain in the left leg. The patient was conscious, oriented, and in generally satisfactory condition."

— Excerpt from the victim's medical records

"About ten people were really badly beaten, others... received blows to the forehead or back, but overall were more or less okay."

Many of the beaten simply collapsed from exhaustion.

"The man in the long blue shirt... he was completely covered in blood... he lay down on the floor to sleep and was not touched anymore — he had been beaten to such a state that nothing could be done with him."

The nature of the victims' injuries illustrates the extreme cruelty of the treatment. Below are the most common types of injuries sustained, with examples from victim testimonies:

Extensive Hematomas and Soft Tissue Bruising. Most of the beaten individuals had multiple hematomas across their bodies. One victim's medical examination described striped hematomas on the neck (6 × 4 cm), large bruises on the lower back (up to 12 cm in diameter), and bruises on the shoulders, forearms, thighs, shins, and buttocks — hematomas covered a significant portion of the body.

Medical reports listed: *"contusion of the cervical spine, contusions and hematomas of the lumbar region, gluteal region, right and left thighs, left shin, right shoulder, and forearm."*

Another victim had a similar set of injuries documented: *"soft tissue contusions of the head and chest, multiple subcutaneous hematomas on the scapular areas, buttocks, thighs, and shins."* These medically confirmed bruises indicate systematic beatings with batons over the entire body.

Fractures and Bone Injuries. Some victims sustained more serious musculoskeletal injuries as a result of the security forces' actions. In particular, cases of broken ribs and spinal injuries were documented.

One victim reported that, in his perception, a rib was broken during a beating in the paddy wagon. The acute pain subsequently prevented him from moving or sleeping in any position other than on his healthy side. The man approached the doctors who arrived at night, saying: *"Probably a rib is broken, because I can't move at all"*, yet no medical assistance was provided — the medics advised him to endure the pain and get imaging done after release.

Another victim was later found to have a subluxation of a cervical vertebra caused by a baton strike:

"It turned out that due to a baton blow, I had a cervical vertebra subluxation."

Traumatic Brain Injuries and Head Wounds. Witnesses also reported head injuries of varying severity. Cases included concussions and other traumatic brain injuries (TBI), as well as lacerations requiring sutures.

One victim described being held head-down in the basement of the Police Department, during which he hit his forehead against the wall and lost consciousness:

"I stood for 2–3 minutes, then fell unconscious... slid down along the wall."

Many reported dizziness, nausea, and disorientation after blows to the head. Thus, baton strikes and being thrown to the floor led to serious head trauma.

Facial, Dental, and Maxillofacial Injuries. Security forces also inflicted blows to the faces of detainees. The investigators' accounts include several witness testimonies indicating that some detainees had teeth knocked out and noses broken.

According to witnesses, one man, who happened to be on the street, was beaten with a baton so severely that he lost teeth and, apparently, sustained kidney damage, making it difficult for him to breathe. He was eventually taken away by an ambulance when he began losing consciousness.

Another man had his jaw broken during detention. According to eyewitness accounts, the security forces were particularly brutal toward physically strong or overweight men:

"A heavysset guy... they broke his jaw, struck him in the kidneys..."

There are also reports of a broken nose in one of the detainees:

"One man had a broken nose, it was bleeding continuously."

Internal Organ Injuries. For many detainees, blows to the torso caused internal organ injuries. Victims reported severe pain in the chest and abdomen. Witness testimonies frequently mention kidney and abdominal injuries.

For example, several people noted difficulty urinating and blood in the urine after beatings. Medical experts state that these are signs of kidney damage.

One man was beaten so severely in the kidney area that it caused long-term health problems, including intense pain and weakness in the legs, making normal movement impossible.

Another detainee, who was beaten until he involuntarily urinated, likely suffered a rupture or contusion of internal organs, which also caused loss of control over bowel and bladder function during the beating. Such internal injuries are extremely dangerous, yet in the conditions of the Police Department, no immediate medical assistance was provided. Medics were not called to attend the victims.

Injuries to Hands and Nerve Damage from Plastic Restraints. In addition to beatings, detainees experienced extreme pain from tightly fastened plastic handcuffs. Many suffered swelling and numbness in the hands due to compression.

"When we were transported to the detention center on Okrestina Street, the restraints were tightened so much that during the ride my hands turned blue and the skin lost sensation."

"More than four months have passed, but sensation in the skin has not returned."

Another detainee, who tried to protect himself with his hands from the blows, experienced severe swelling in his left hand: *"It was very swollen and painful."*

Thus, tight restraints and repeated blows to the limbs caused nerve damage and long-term loss of sensation in the hands of the victims.

Loss of Consciousness. In addition to the injuries described above, eyewitnesses reported numerous cases of people losing consciousness:

"People were lying on the floor in the basement in pools of blood and urine. Some literally passed out from the blows."

"He was standing, his cheek was smashed, blood mixed with saliva foaming... He was already not in his right mind."

One man, who had fallen, was stepped on the neck by a police officer, causing him to lose consciousness:

"I came to because one of them poured water over me."

Exacerbation of Chronic Diseases

The situation was particularly dangerous for detainees with chronic illnesses. During their time at the Police Department, several people experienced disease attacks due to the lack of necessary medication and harsh detention conditions, which threatened their lives.

Asthma attacks. In a stuffy, overcrowded paddy wagon, an asthmatic detainee began to suffer from shortness of breath and choking. He asked permission to use his medication, but the guards refused, saying: *"How do I know what kind of medicine that is? Maybe it's drugs."*

He was initially not even allowed to change position. Only when he said he was suffocating were they allowed to stand slightly. However, the attack did not stop, and his breathing remained severely impaired.

Only when the guards saw that his condition was critical did they call for medical assistance. The arriving medics administered an injection (probably a bronchodilator or prednisolone), which slightly alleviated his breathing. However, he was not hospitalized. Even after the choking attack, the man was placed back in the detention cell.

Allergic Edema (Quincke's Edema). Another documented case involved a severe allergic reaction in a detainee with a chronic condition. Witnesses recalled that the man's *"mucous membranes were swelling, and he began to suffocate."*

Medical professionals who later analyzed the case suggested that it resembled angioedema (Quincke's edema). It also became known that the man had a rare condition requiring daily medication, but he had no access to it while in detention. This triggered an acute episode: his face and throat swelled, he turned blue, could barely stand, and held onto a radiator for support — yet he was not even allowed to sit down.

"Then someone shouted that a strong intravenous antihistamine was needed. After some time, an ambulance finally arrived, and the medics administered the necessary medication. Only then did he begin to feel better."

This case demonstrated that without medical intervention, the man could have suffocated and died. The necessary assistance was provided almost by chance.

Epilepsy. Among the detainees were people suffering from epilepsy, for whom the abusive treatment posed particular danger.

"One young man loudly stated: 'I have epilepsy, I cannot lie in this position.' He could not lie face down with his hands twisted behind his back, as required, because it could trigger a seizure. He had to remain standing, leaning against the wall, to avoid losing consciousness."

Another detainee did experience an epileptic seizure. According to witnesses, medical assistance was provided only in the morning. During the examination, he informed the medics: "I am HIV-positive."

Diabetes. A particularly dramatic situation unfolded with a detainee suffering from diabetes. During the search, officers confiscated his life-saving insulin and even sugar (sweets), which diabetics use in cases of sudden drops in blood glucose. That night, according to witness accounts, he experienced a severe hypoglycemic episode.

"He became very unwell and started losing consciousness. The police officers refused to call an ambulance, claiming he was pretending. Then other detainees secretly took out a phone and called emergency services themselves."

When the medical team arrived, they assessed the man's condition as critical (risk of diabetic coma) and insisted on immediate hospitalization. Only under

pressure from the doctors did the head of the Police Department reluctantly agree to release the detainee.

"In fact, the doctors had to 'wrest' a dying man from the police — a man who could have died in the cell without treatment."

This episode underscores the complete disregard for the lives and health of detainees, as the security forces attempted to ignore even an obviously life-threatening condition.

Cardiovascular and Oncological Diseases. Among the detainees were individuals with serious chronic illnesses, yet they were not provided medical assistance, just like the others. Shortly before the described events, one man had undergone kidney removal surgery.

"He shouted that such treatment was contraindicated for him and asked them to call an ambulance. In response, they began beating him even more severely."

There is also information about a detainee with a disability who had cancer. In addition, he suffered from thrombosis and required daily anticoagulant medication to thin his blood. His elderly mother stood outside the Police Department gates all night, begging to pass medication to her son. She had all medical documentation confirming his diagnosis and the necessary drugs. At first, officers lied and claimed that her son was not at the Partizansky Police Department. Eventually, they accepted the package of medication — but even then, they did not deliver it to him for a long time. Only at 9 a.m., after a shift change, did the management review his documents. The detainee was then released and allowed to take his medication.

Denial of Medical Assistance

Despite the severity of the injuries and the exacerbation of chronic illnesses, medical assistance was practically not provided to the victims at the Partizansky Police Department.

Detainees consistently report that any requests for a doctor or medication were ignored and often triggered further violence.

"People tried to say, 'I feel unwell, I need my pills, I need a doctor,' but this was ignored and only provoked even greater aggression."

Another victim confirms that asking for help was pointless:

"After the third request, I realized it was useless to ask them for anything... They replied: 'You're lucky you're still alive.'"

In fact, officers not only refused to call medical personnel but cynically continued beating already injured detainees. They tried to prevent doctors from accessing even those who had been severely beaten.

According to one eyewitness, during the night he spent at the Partizansky Police Department, an ambulance was called only once. However, shortly afterward, the two detainees were returned to the cell despite their serious condition.

"I think an ambulance came once — they took out two of the most severely beaten people."

There are witness statements that on the morning of 12 August, medical personnel were eventually called to examine some of the victims, but even then not everyone was seen.

"Around 8 a.m., doctors arrived. They examined the man with heart problems. They examined P. [a man who had been severely beaten]. They did not examine me. I said, 'May I also see a doctor?' and they replied, 'You're fine.'"

Another detainee asked that doctors be informed that he suffered from thrombosis and required special medical attention, but the medics were not allowed to assist him.

Victims also reported that some medical workers who arrived in response to calls openly blamed the detainees for what had happened. One severely beaten man, who was in extreme pain (he could neither lie down nor lean against anything because of pain in his side), recalled that the doctors made sarcastic remarks toward the detainees:

"You wanted to end up here yourselves. Why were you putting on a circus in the city?" Instead of providing treatment, they stated: "You're fine — it's just a bruise. When you get out of jail, go to a hospital and get X-rays."

A paramedic told another victim, who was suspected of having broken ribs, that he was "fine" and refused hospitalization:

"He said: 'If I let you go home now, can you walk there?' 'Yes, I can.' 'Oh? Then you're fine.'"

Water, food, and sanitary assistance were practically not provided at the Police Department. Detainees recall that they were not fed, and drinking water was given very rarely. Some who were already losing consciousness from dehydration and heat were granted slight concessions and allowed to take a few sips of water.

"For example, one detainee lost consciousness twice from suffocation and injuries. Only when officers saw that he was staggering and nearly passing out did they give him some water and allow him to sit on a chair."

Conditions in the basement of the Partizansky Police Department remained unsanitary: people lay on the floor in their own excrement, mixed with blood-soaked clothing. Some victims were not even allowed to use the toilet and were forced to relieve themselves where they lay. In such conditions, detainees' health deteriorated rapidly, yet medical assistance remained unavailable until they were transferred to detention facilities or hospitals after their release.

Long-Term Consequences and Rehabilitation

Even months after the events of August 2020, many victims continued to suffer from physical and psychological consequences of the injuries inflicted upon them. The recovery period lasted weeks and months, and some injuries may remain with survivors of torture for the rest of their lives.

Numerous physical injuries required hospital treatment. Some victims were hospitalized immediately after their release. For example, one of the victims was admitted to City Clinical Hospital No. 10, where he remained for two weeks. He received stitches for his wounds, underwent X-rays (suspected rib fractures), and was treated for multiple contusions. After discharge, he spent another week on medical leave at home before he was able to return to work.

At the same time, the man notes that his health has never fully recovered after what he endured.

"My legs give way, my back hurts. If I strain myself, my chest tightens. My kidneys were beaten."

Other victims, even those who did not suffer fractures, reported that their injuries healed very slowly. One victim recalls that his bruised leg took about two months to recover, and a hard lump remained at the site of the blow for a long time. He later had to undergo additional medical examinations, including an ultrasound scan and consultations with vascular surgeons.

Another victim experienced numbness in his fingers for about a month after the beatings, likely due to nerve damage (the witness himself associates this with baton blows and tightly bound wrists).

Some injuries may have resulted in disability. For example, a subluxation of a cervical vertebra did not initially manifest itself, but later the victim's "neck locked up," requiring an ambulance to be called and treatment to be sought abroad. Without proper rehabilitation, such spinal injuries are dangerous and can lead to chronic pain and restricted mobility.

Many victims subsequently developed **psychological consequences of the torture**. The experience caused anxiety disorders, fears, and post-traumatic symptoms. One of those beaten openly states that he was diagnosed with panic disorder and has suffered from panic attacks since the events.

"I flinch if a door slams. At first, I kept dreaming that I was hitting [someone] in a helmet, and the glass was shattering."

Such intrusive nightmares and heightened reactions to sudden noises are typical symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Some victims also note that they still cannot calmly recall what happened to them.

"Sometimes I don't believe this happened to me... I try not to think about it."

Even those who appear outwardly composed admit that they try not to think about what happened, telling themselves that *"it could have been worse."*

The loss of health directly affected the **financial and professional well-being** of torture survivors. People were forced to spend time and money on medical treatment and faced a lack of understanding at work.

There is a documented case in which an employer sought to dismiss an employee due to a prolonged medical leave. Conflicts later continued

because the man frequently had to take time off to attend medical appointments and undergo rehabilitation.

It was also difficult for victims to have their injuries officially documented. In state medical institutions, doctors were afraid to indicate beatings and torture as the cause of injuries. One victim recounted that at a trauma clinic, the doctor reacted nervously when he mentioned being beaten with batons and hinted that he could not record this, because "*all injury reports are reviewed by the Police Department, and ... they could come to my home and initiate criminal proceedings.*" As a result, the doctor listed a false cause of injury in the medical certificate ("fell down") in order to avoid drawing the attention of the police.

Thus, victims of torture could not rely on a fair investigation of their cases within the country. Even obtaining objective medical documentation of their injuries became a serious challenge.

**PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TORTURE
OF DETAINEES AT THE PARTIZANSKY DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, MINSK**

“And someone said, ‘What am I supposed to sign? Can I at least read it?’ And the police officer — or whoever he was, an officer, I don’t know — said: ‘You animal, I’ll break all your fingers right now if you don’t sign.’”

— From the testimony of a victim

The authors of this document consider it necessary to identify the individuals responsible for the mass torture in Belarus, and in particular at the Partizansky Police Department in Minsk, as well as those responsible for the impunity of these crimes.

1. The person holding the office of President of the Republic of Belarus — **Alexander Lukashenko**.
2. Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus — **Yuri Karaev** (11 June 2019–29 October 2020).
3. Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus — **Alexander Barsukov** (2017–2020).

4. Head of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs of the Minsk City Executive Committee — **Ivan Kubrakov** (from 29 October 2020 — currently Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus).
5. Commander of the OMON unit of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs of the Minsk City Executive Committee — **Dmitry Balaba**.
6. Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus — **Alexander Konyuk** (2011–2020).
7. Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus — **Andrey Shved**.
8. Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus — **Ivan Noskevich** (10 November 2015–11 March 2021).
9. Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus — **Dmitry Gora** (from 11 March 2021).
10. Prosecutor of Minsk — **Oleg Lavrukhin**.
11. Prosecutor of the Partizansky District of Minsk — **Sergey Borisenko**.

Employees of the Partizansky Police Department in Minsk are officials who serve under the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs of the Minsk City Executive Committee. All employees are either members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs if they serve in operational capacities, or civilian personnel who provide administrative and technical support (they are state civil servants). All employees of the Police Department are required to strictly comply with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, professional ethics, and moral and ethical standards corresponding to their positions.

At the Partizansky Police Department, as in all other Ministry of Internal Affairs institutions, there is a strict hierarchy based on position and rank — all subordinate employees strictly carry out the orders and instructions of the Police Department administration.



Chief of the Police Department (RUVD) and Their Deputies

“One of the lieutenant colonels was asked if he could make a phone call, since everyone else had already called, and he said: ‘Who gave all the others the right to make calls?’ The guy sitting next to me said: ‘Beltelecom.’ That was the best moment of the evening. We all genuinely laughed, but then he immediately started shouting for us to get on our knees: ‘On your knees, scum! What is this, a camp?’ People got down, but it was worth it.”

The individuals directly responsible for the crimes committed at the Partizansky Police Department in Minsk between 8 and 13 August 2020 were the senior leadership of the district department — the chief and their deputies.

Due to the strict hierarchy, all Police Department employees report to the chief and their deputies. Any actions by staff are carried out on the direct orders of the leadership or with their tacit consent.

The leadership of the Partizansky Police Department executed criminal orders issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which enforces the authoritarian regime. In August 2020, the main message from the Police Department leadership to the detained citizens was to carry out physical violence and create inhumane, torturous conditions of detention. Violence and abuse of detainees were maintained through formal and informal orders, as well as strict discipline among employees within the department.

Thus, the entire leadership of the Partizansky Police Department bears personal responsibility for the events that occurred in the department from 8 to 13 August 2020.

“...Someone gave orders to the chief of the Police Department; the chief passed them to his deputies and everyone else, and it continued down the chain. Whoever gave the order to the chief of the Police Department — either the Minister of Internal Affairs or the current official at the time, since he managed all of Minsk — Kubrakov, who oversaw all of Minsk and the city’s police units. He directed all the dispersals of the protests.”

It was precisely the senior officers who issued the main orders directing the use of violence and inhumane treatment.

"The only somewhat normal treatment at the Police Department came from the lower-ranking officers who were watching over us and guarding us. They were young guys, even straight out of the police academy. But the higher-ranking officers, their commanders, or whoever they were, treated us harshly. It was clear that these young guys were even on our side. If we asked them for something, they would say: 'Hold on, guys, the chief will leave, and then we'll help you with this or that, if needed.'"

N° 001



Full Name

Burdyuk

Dmitry Evgenievich

Date of Birth: 31 January 1980

Position: Head of the Partizansky Police Department
(until 17 December 2020)

Rank: Police Colonel

Date of reference regarding position: August 2020

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"I was searched. From time to time, a man in a white shirt would enter the hall. Today I tried to find out who he was. He somewhat resembled the head of the Partizansky Police Department. I looked at several officials posted on their website, looked at photos. And he really stuck in my memory; he had a rather disgusting demeanor. He was the one who said, 'You all will be killed.' At one point, I noticed him entering the hall with a white armband. I think he was mocking us. And he was also the one who shoved us into the vehicle when we were taken to Okrestina."

"That's how they kept us until morning. Periodically, some senior officers would come in; some man in plain clothes with a radio was wandering around. My friends and I understood that this was the head of the Police Department. There are two faces like that on the website. He was giving orders."



Full Name

Arlovsky

Yuri Leonidovich

Date of Birth: 2 November 1979

Position: Deputy Head of the Partizansky Police Department;
Head of the Criminal Investigation Department of the
Criminal Police

Rank: Police Colonel

Date of reference regarding position:

August 2020 / April 2025

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"We were already brought out by OMON officers. There was a man there without a balaclava. He was short, already quite bald, and, it seemed, a bit overweight. He was very aggressive and was their main person. There was another man in the Partizansky Police Department who resembled him, also apparently a head officer, and he was very angry — it was better not to look at him unnecessarily."

"Then around 3 a.m., some senior officer in full uniform ran in, started shouting things like, 'You sons of bitches, you'll raise your hand against the police,' waving his baton at whoever was nearby. He ordered us to stay on our knees until 9 a.m. He came, yelled for a while, then returned about ten minutes later, without uniform this time, silent. Of course, nobody could stay on their knees until 9 a.m.; who could endure that?"

N° 003



Full Name

Olshevsky

Alexander Fedorovich

Date of Birth: 26 April 1971

Position: Head of Public Security Police, Partizansky Police Department

Rank: Police Colonel

Date of reference regarding position: August 2020

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"They [staff of the Police Department] were not very talkative, but they answered some questions. Then, even by early morning, they were almost really talking. Occasionally, some people in plain clothes would come, and everyone immediately quieted down. A person would just come, look, and say 'You shouldn't have gone out onto the street.'"

N° 004



Full Name

Bliznyuk

Alexander Mikhailovich

Date of Birth: 22 October 1976

Position: Deputy Head of Public Security Police

Rank: Police Lieutenant Colonel

Date of reference regarding position:

August 2020

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"I know for sure that at one point we were watched by two lieutenant colonels. One was short, wearing a cap; the other... I had my glasses taken, so I didn't see very well, but he was tall, with a short haircut, very fit. I know they were lieutenant colonels, not because of their shoulder boards, but because they called someone, their staff at the Police Department, and said: 'What the hell, two lieutenant colonels are guarding detainees while the senior officers are lounging around? Don't you think something is wrong here?'"

N° 005



Full Name

Koleda

Natalia Evgenievna

Date of Birth: 27 February 1973

Position: Deputy Head for Ideological Work and Personnel Support, Partizansky Police Department

Rank: Police Colonel

Date of reference regarding position:

August 2020

Analysis of Actions by Employees of the Partizansky Police Department

All employees of the Partizansky Police Department in Minsk present on its premises during these days, in one way or another, participated in criminal actions against the detainees. Following a thorough investigation of their actions, they are subject to accountability for their conduct.

The investigators established that all employees of the Partizansky Police Department in Minsk had a set of black uniforms (similar to those of the OMON) without any identifying marks, badges, or rank insignia. These employees would change into this uniform, making it impossible to identify them. The presence of such uniforms allowed the police officers to use violence against detainees while claiming that any force applied occurred during the detention or transfer process.

"[Regarding the black uniforms of the Partizansky Police Department staff] No, there was absolutely nothing like that. It wasn't even an OMON uniform with markings. These [Partizansky employees] had a plain black uniform with no identification. Moreover, I even saw that some wore boots, others sneakers in this uniform, whichever was convenient for them."

During the course of this investigation, the authors documented widespread cases of criminal acts, violence, disciplinary violations, unprofessional and immoral behavior by employees of the Partizansky Police Department.

“One of the officers began engaging the detainees in some conversations. His voice sounded like the one who had beaten detainees while filling out their data. He started telling us that the officers call detainees ‘little elephants’—a term they invented for those attending protests, as they are supposedly controlled by ‘puppet masters.’ He also mentioned that there are coordinators, and they were trying to find them. He was wearing a balaclava, but apparently got hot while beating people, so he took it off and wore a T-shirt. On his forearm, there was a black abstract tattoo resembling needles or curved knife blades. I often saw tattoos like this. The tattoo extended from shoulder to elbow. I will be able to identify this officer by this tattoo as well as by his manner of speaking.”

According to interviewed citizens, the main punitive role during detentions in the city, transportation in police vans, and within the premises of the Partizansky Police Department in Minsk from 8–13 August 2020, alongside Partizansky Police Department officers, was carried out by the OMON (Special Police Unit) of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs of the Minsk City Executive Committee, under the command of **Dmitry Vladimirovich Balaba**¹³. He bears personal responsibility for serious human rights violations committed by OMON officers after the 9 August elections, including arbitrary arrests and cruel treatment, including torture, of peaceful demonstrators.

“The three police officers who detained us, supervised us, and transported us in the police van were wearing balaclavas and black clothing—not in standard police uniforms. They were hiding their identities just in case. The officers who escorted us for fingerprinting and photographing were regular police in standard blue police uniforms.”

“I remember one surname from the protocol—Kozodoy. That was the name of an OMON officer. Ka-zo-doy... Ko-za-doy. I don't remember exactly. Later, I saw a protocol identical to mine in some Telegram channels. Someone from my group, with whom I was detained, had posted theirs.”

¹³ Included in the sanctions lists of the European Union and the United Kingdom for serious human rights violations in Belarus following the 9 August 2020 elections.

During the brutal beatings by OMON and other special units on the territory of the Partizansky District Police Department in Minsk, there were employees present who did nothing and did not prevent the use of violence, acting in unified compliance with the orders of their command.

"They [officers who were present during the criminal beatings of detainees] did nothing, they just sat there. For them, it was probably something habitual. They didn't object at all, didn't pay attention. Later, when those [officers] left, they said: 'He won't come back until morning, you can go back to sleep.'"

"Along the entire route from the basement to the toilet or some office, there were cadets with 'K' insignia on their epaulettes. They kept saying: 'Oh, we are going to beat you! How long are you going to walk around, damn it? What's with these people, what the hell?' — they threatened us the entire way."

"The officers allowed us not to stay on our knees and warned that OMON or the Police Department leadership would be coming."

"These guys who were guarding us changed every half hour. There was a young senior lieutenant who said: 'You can sit down while he's coming. I'll give a signal, and if anything, back on your knees.' But in the end, he didn't come — we stayed like that until nine in the morning, and we were taken to the toilet."

"[Regarding the reaction of officers to the beatings] Nothing, they just sat there. They didn't say anything. They even went out — and that was it. But later, when that OMON officer left, a policeman said: 'You can sit down. If anything, I'll warn you when he comes back.'"

It should be noted that most of the law enforcement officers in those days tried to conceal their personal information: they did not wear badges with names, positions, or ranks. Many wore balaclavas or medical masks, which made it difficult for the victims to identify them.

"He regretted that the sports hall wasn't finished, and that because of us, 'idiots,' they don't get to work and rest. He is an officer who participates in forceful detentions — that is, not OMON, but regular police officers, a unit that responds to detentions with weapons and helmets when some robbery or similar event occurs. Black T-shirt, balaclava, black pants."

"He was of that age, fairly strong and healthy. He was in gear, and, I think, even a balaclava, carrying a baton. He took off his helmet, put it on the table, started hitting everyone, and made everyone get on their knees. You don't think about trying to look at him or remember him. You just stand there, hands behind your back, closing your eyes in anticipation of the blow."

"I can't say exactly who escorted us out. Most likely, it was the people who had arrested us. But again, you couldn't see much because your head is down — at best, you only see your own feet. And since you have to move quickly, I can't provide any more details. When I turned my head to the side, I saw four people in front of me in the same position as I was, and a young woman standing with a notebook recording; and there was a person in a mask — I don't know who that was."

The use of unjustified violence, and whether detainees would be forced to remain in physically painful positions or allowed to "rest" even under inhumane conditions, depended entirely on the discretion of the Police Department officers.

"The situation was such that many of us were sitting on benches, others on the floor, and during this time two RUVD officers were watching over us. A third officer came in and said: 'Why the hell are you all sitting here, what is this, a kindergarten? Everyone get up and face the wall.' We all stood facing the wall, hands behind our backs, standing like this for who knows how long, because not all of the officers watching us told us the time. Another officer came, as if for a shift change, and said: 'Why the hell are you all standing facing the wall? Sit down quickly on the floor.' We all sat on the floor. Then another officer came: 'Why are you all sitting on the floor? We put benches here for you. Do you want us to remove the benches? We didn't have benches here before,' he said, 'and you're not using them. Sit on the benches.' So we sat on the benches."

"Then they returned us back to the basement. But at that time there was again a woman, and I asked her for permission to sit on the floor. She said I could sit, but I had to look straight at the wall."

"Towards morning, they made all of us get on our knees, hands behind our backs, and had rank-and-file police officers supervise us. They stood for a while, then one of them stationed himself by the

door and said: 'Alright, sit on the floor, but as soon as I tell you that someone is coming, you get back on your knees.'"

During the preparation of this investigation, the authors were able to establish the involvement of Parizhansky officers in the beatings of detainees. All evidence of crimes committed by the officers was documented through the testimonies of victims and will serve as the basis for holding officials accountable for crimes against humanity.

*"And the guards changed. At the table sat one pair at first, then another, and there was a funny story when the guard changed: two cops came in, and one on our side recognized someone, said, some colleague, '***, hello.'"*

"From time to time, this frightening, threatening OMON officer would come. Later it turned out that one of the Parizhansky RUVD officers personally knew one of the detainees, and someone was called , but I don't know who, because I was looking at the floor. One of them asked someone: ', how are you here, what brings you here?' And he said: 'Just like this,' they went out together, then both returned, and he whispered to all of us that everyone would get 15 days. That everyone would get 15 imprisonment, and that we were going to Prison No. 8 in Zhodino. The only reason we weren't there yet was that there was no available prison transport."

The unlawful nature of the actions of both those who detained and used violence improperly, as well as the Parizhansky Police Department officers, was obvious to every employee.

"The officers themselves talked about us among themselves, saying that these were the people who were taken arbitrarily. They knew that my group, 57 people, were individuals randomly detained on the street at 7 p.m."

"One of those lieutenant colonels, who forbade us to make calls, said: 'See what a bad person I am.' When a lower-ranking officer came in and they were chatting among themselves, the junior officer asked: 'Which ones are these?' — 'These are the ones who were taken arbitrarily.'"

During the investigation, specific officers were identified who committed crimes in August 2020 against detainees at the Parizhansky Police Department in Minsk.

"I remembered three people. This woman and that captain... And I remembered the one from the criminal investigation unit. He had a short brush-style haircut, wore jeans and a short-sleeved shirt, and carried a service pistol. I remembered him very well because he was commanding all the beatings that morning. I later saw him at ChKB."

"They kept changing constantly; new people kept coming. Never more than three, usually two. One sat behind the tables where searches were conducted, one stood at the door, and we called one of them 'Cowboy.' He was very tall, always wore a cap and a mask, and always had his hand on his service weapon in the holster, walking around a bit widely. He watched us very closely and shouted at us: 'No talking!' Another we called 'Einstein,' also 'the mathematician.' He started talking to us about the fact that Tikhanovskaya could not have won the elections and said: 'How many people are registered on the "Golos" platform? How many of you are familiar with the science of statistics?' We immediately decided he was Einstein because he was very skilled in mathematics."

An example of an identified RUVD officer who directly used violence or issued orders to apply excessive force is **Vitaly Viktorovich Shibko**.

N° 006



Full Name

Shibko

Vitaly Viktorovich

Date of Birth: 27 June 1983

Department: OOPP

Position: Head of OOPP Department

Rank: Police Lieutenant Colonel

Date of Position Mentioned: August 2020

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"There are benches where the OMON officers sit, and between these benches they laid all of us. The plus and minus at the same time was that I was at the back rows diving into this paddy wagon... The minus, because the OMON officers had open access to you. And when the door of our paddy wagon closed, comrade Vitaly Viktorovich Shibko told the OMON officers: 'Process them while you are driving.'"

"One colonel, I later saw him in various Telegram channels and recognized him, Vitaly Viktorovich Shibko. A colleague of Vitaly Shibko said: 'They've pissed me off; I would shoot them right here.'"

Police Department Staff Serving in August 2020

If you know specific individuals who carried out torture and cruel treatment of detainees in August 2020, please contact the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus.

Website: <https://torturesbelarus2020.org/en/>

Email: contact@torturesbelarus2020.org

Telegram: [@ICITB2020_contact](https://www.instagram.com/@ICITB2020_contact)

We guarantee maximum safety and confidentiality in communication!

LEGAL QUALIFICATION OF ACTIONS OF BELARUSIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

*“Around 3 a.m., one of the OMON officers, apparently a senior-ranking one, huge as a house, burst into our hall. The guys there were already half-asleep. He started yelling: ‘What’s with these preferential conditions? Everyone, face down, now, you b*h!’ He beat everyone in the front rows, simply hitting them with a baton. ‘What, dared to raise a hand against the police?!’ — he began beating us. We all remained in some kind of stupor in these same positions — on our knees, face down.”*

— From the testimony of a victim

The events of August 8–13, 2020, that took place in the Partizansky RUVD in Minsk clearly demonstrate that its leadership and staff violated their official duties to protect citizens’ rights, carrying out criminal orders motivated by political considerations — aimed at suppressing dissent. During this large-scale operation across the country, they committed a number of crimes in violation of both Belarusian law and international legal norms.

Evidence of these crimes has been documented by the International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus in the form of numerous citizen testimonies and documents provided by them.

They convincingly confirm that law enforcement officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus at the Partizansky Police Department in Minsk carried out massive, large-scale, and systematic acts of torture, violence, humiliation, and cruel treatment of detainees.

Detainees in the city — including women, elderly people, minors, individuals with various chronic illnesses, and those injured or beaten during arrests — were brought to the Partizansky Police Department, where they were subjected to organized brutal beatings by being forced to pass through lines of officers wielding batons (so-called “death corridors/staircases”)¹⁴.

Under continuous baton blows, people were driven into the basement (shooting range) and the assembly hall, where they continued to be beaten and forced to sit on the floor on their knees, face down, regardless of age or gender.

Frightened, sick, injured, and beaten citizens were kept in premises unsuitable for human habitation, where they could not even sit down, let alone lie down and rest. Any slight deviation from the officers' demands (changing posture, talking) resulted in further brutal beatings.

Basic human needs were not adequately provided for at the Police Department. Detainees were not fed during their entire stay and were restricted in drinking water. They were allowed to use the toilet only upon request, often accompanied by insults and beatings.

Detainees were subjected to gross physical force not justified by the need to maintain order, which clearly indicates an abuse of power by law enforcement officers.

In addition to physical violence, psychological abuse was also inflicted on detainees. They were verbally insulted, intimidated, and threatened. Some victims report being threatened with execution or shooting.

Medical assistance for detainees was generally not provided, necessary medications were not issued, and emergency medical care was called only in exceptional cases.

¹⁴ This practice of “processing” citizens was carried out in all Police Department of the city of Minsk from August 9 to 13, 2020.

As a result of being held at the Partizansky District Department of Internal Affairs (RUVD) in Minsk, many detainees suffered severe physical and mental health problems, some of which are irreversible.

In a situation of multiple human rights violations, legal protection for citizens was impossible within the RUVD. Requests by detainees to call lawyers were met with refusals, threats, and beatings. No administrative procedures, such as court hearings, took place on the premises during the described period, and some detainees were forced to sign falsified detention protocols.

When detainees were being transferred from the RUVD to detention facilities, their hands were tightly bound with construction ties, and they were beaten. Detainees were forced to pass through a "corridor" of security personnel who beat them with batons as they were loaded into paddy wagons. Powerful blows were struck to the back, head, legs, and arms. People were packed tightly inside the vans, thirty or more per vehicle. On the way to the detention centers, detainees continued to be beaten without cause. The entire process humiliated the human dignity of detainees and was unlawful and excessively cruel.

Thus, the actions of the security forces at the Partizansky RUVD in Minsk from August 8 to 13, 2020, fall fully within the scope of the offense provided for under Article 128 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (crimes against the security of humanity), which punishes unlawful detention followed by torture or acts of cruelty committed in connection with the political beliefs of civilians, with imprisonment from seven to twenty-five years, life imprisonment, or the death penalty.

From the perspective of international criminal law, the above-described acts of violence qualify under subparagraphs e), f), and k) of paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as crimes against humanity — in the form of imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental norms of international law, as well as torture and other inhumane acts of a similar nature, including sexual violence, involving the intentional infliction of severe suffering, serious bodily harm, or serious damage to mental or physical health.

Based on the facts presented in this investigation and the witness testimonies, it can be concluded that the criminal acts of law enforcement officers on the territory and in the premises of the Partizansky District Department of Internal Affairs of Minsk are deliberate actions carried out as part of a conscious, large-scale, and systematic attack on civilians throughout the country, and may be classified as international crimes — **crimes against humanity**, which

significantly distinguishes them from ordinary crimes and human rights violations¹⁵.

The thesis on the existence of crimes against humanity as crimes regardless of whether such conduct is criminalized under national law is also shared by Belarus. It is important to note that since the crime provided for in Article 128 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus belongs to the most serious crimes against the peace and security of humanity, Article 85 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus establishes that persons found guilty of committing this crime cannot be exempted from **criminal liability or punishment due to the expiration of the statute of limitations**.

¹⁵ See *Belarus: Crimes Against Humanity. Legal Qualification of the Crimes of the A. Lukashenko Regime*, Chapter 2: Crimes Against Humanity: Large-Scale and Systematic Attacks on Civilians, pp. 21–30. Available at: https://torturesbelarus2020.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/belarus_prestupleniya_protiv_chelovechnosti_2021-1.pdf

