

## Attacks against journalists and media staff (2014)

Date	Victim (s)	Media Org	Job description	Description
20.01.2014	Aleh Barscheuski	The newspaper <i>Vitebskij Courier</i>	editor-in-chief	Aleh Barscheuski was <b>detained</b> under the pretext that he was suspected of forging the driver's license. He spent some time in the Kastrychnitski district police department. Then, representatives of tax inspection came and made him sign an obligation to submit a tax declaration before February 11.
29.01.2014	Vasil Siamashka	BelaPAN news agency	cameraman	Vasil Siamashka was <b>detained</b> by people in plain clothes. The incident took place after the journalist took an interview from two students, participants of a crowd scene of the movie. The plain-clothed people asked him what questions he had asked in the interview. Vasil Siamashka recorded it on the video – the plain-clothed people asked him to delete the video and never to restore it.
4.02.2014	Aleh Zhalnou		blogger	In Babruysk, the blogger Aleh Zhalnou was <b>detained</b> for almost twelve hours “under suspicion of preparing an explosion”. The blogger came to a personal meeting to the head of the local department of the Investigative Committee. He left his personal belongings in the cloakroom, including a key to his car. The duty officer imagined that the key could be a remote control for a bomb, and arrested the blogger. He was searched and then placed into a camera, then questioned. After the questioning and watching surveillance camera records, he was set free.
6.02.2014	Siarzhuk Kruchkou Nasta Reznikava Aliaksandr Patseyeu		journalist journalist cameraman	The journalists, who had come to Miory to make a report about problems with heating of people's houses, were <b>detained</b> for several hours in the regional town Miory (Vitebsk region). They were explained they were in a restricted territory of military drills. The journalists were made to write explanations, and after that were recommended to leave the town. They were escorted out of the town.
7.02.2014	Aleh Zhalnou		blogger	The prosecutor's office of Babruysk <b>initiated a criminal case</b> against the blogger Aleh Zhalnou according to Article 369 (public insult of an official representative on duty). According to a report of police, in 2012 – 2013 the blogger posted several insulting articles against a police officer in his blog and on other online resources. <i>On September 4, 2013 Aleh Zhalnou, together with his son, got in an incident with the traffic police. They wanted to register wrong parking; instead, the police officers who arrived to his phone call drew up an administrative report against him.</i>
19.02.2014	Yury Dzeshuk		independent journalist	The prosecutor's office of Lida district (Hrodna region) issued a <b>warning</b> to Yury Dzeshuk from Biarozauka town. He was warned that it is inadmissible to work for a foreign mass medium without accreditation and also to publish unverified information. The journalist asked to give him a written copy of the warning, but got a refusal. <i>Earlier, on February 10, the journalist was summoned to the prosecutor's office and questioned about his work as a journalist. The journalist refused to answer the questions and said he worked as a freelancer.</i>

2.03.2014	Uladzimir Hrydzin Iryna Arakhouskaya Vasil Siamashka Siarhei Hapon Artsiom Liava, Yauhen Yarchak Ina Studzinskaya	The Radio Svaboda	journalist journalist journalist journalist journalist journalist correspondent	Several journalists were <b>detained</b> near the Russian Embassy in Minsk where they intended to cover an action of protest against Russian intervention to Ukrainian territory. Even before the action started, they were detained and taken to the Central district police department. The detention was guided by Aliaksandr Barsukou, head of the Minsk police. Ina Studzinskaya demonstrated her accreditation; however, the head of the police doubted that it was true. The police officer first demanded that she should delete the photos, and then dragged her to the police van. The detainees were set free in hour and a half later.
5.03.2014	Yuliya Sivets Mikalai Bianco	<i>Radio Racyja</i>	freelancer freelancer	The journalists received <b>prosecutorial warnings</b> for their work for the <i>Radio Racyja</i> – a foreign mass medium registered in Poland. The journalists were officially summoned to the prosecutor’s office. The grounds for the warnings were reports and blogs authored by the journalists on the website <i>racyja.com</i> .
12.03.2014	Anatol Hatoushyts	<i>BelaPAN</i> news agency		Anatol Hatoushyts was <b>detained</b> on a railway station in Homel when he was talking to passengers coming from Ukraine. He demonstrated <i>BelaPAN</i> agency’s accreditation to a police officer, however, Mr. Hatoushyts was demanded his passport and explained that the railway station was a strategic object where audio, photo and video recordings were banned, and a permit from the head of the station was required. Anatol Hatoushyts was taken to the police room for documents verification and set free 10 minutes.
12.03.2014	Maryna Malchanava	<i>Bobruyski Courier</i> newspaper	journalist	Maryna Malchanava was summoned to the Babruysk City police department. The journalist was <b>questioned</b> and informed that she could be held liable according to article 23.34 of the Administrative Code (Violating the procedure of organizing or holding mass events). On March 6 Maryna Malchanava was covering an antimilitarist picket. On April 3, Maryna Malchanava received a reply from the prosecutor’s office saying that administrative charges against her had been dismissed; however, her claim to investigate prosecution for professional activities were left unconsidered.
16.03.2014	Natallia Valakida Ales Silich		TV journalist TV journalist	The journalists were <b>detained</b> when they were covering an allowed electoral picket held by the United Civil Party near the Kamarouski market in Minsk. Participants of the picket were detained, too, in all about 10 people. In the police department, the journalists’ data were copied. The journalists were set free three hours later.
22.03.2014	Yauhen Skrabets		independent journalist	In Brest Yauhen Skrabets was summoned to the prosecutor’s office for <b>questioning</b> . He was asked if he had been working for <i>Radio Racyja</i> and if he had an accreditation as a representative of the outlet in Belarus. The journalist was also asked if he had published any materials that could discredit Belarus’s home and foreign policy. The journalist refused to answer the questions and to sign the questioning records.

24.03.2014	Ales' Dzianisau		independent journalist	The journalist from Hrodna was <b>summoned to police</b> where he was charged with illegal production and distribution of mass media (art. 22.9, part 2). The journalist got a report and was informed that the case would be passed over to court. According to testimonies of director of the Hrodna Regional Puppets Theater, on March 6 the journalist made a report about a new play of the theater "Faust.Sny". The report was shown on <i>Belsat</i> .
25.03.2014	Ales' Kirkevich		journalist	In Hrodna Ales' Kirkevich, a former political prisoner, was <b>summoned to the police</b> for a prophylactic talk. From the department, the policemen went to the journalist's flat and <b>searched</b> it. They were looking for sticky posters of Putin that allegedly started to appear in the district, but found nothing. Ales' Kirkevich had to give his fingerprints and saliva samples. He also got an official warning. He says there were no grounds for that because no violations on his behalf had been registered.
26.03.2014	Ales' Dzerhachou Uladzimir Shulzhytski	low-circulation bulletin <i>Smarhonski Grak</i>	editor distributor	Police officers <b>questioned</b> Ales' Dzerhachou and Uladzimir Shulzhytski about how the outlets function and if they send the obligatory issues to state bodies and archives. No reports were drawn up.
31.03.2014	Yauhen Skrabets		journalist	The prosecutor's office of Brest issued a <b>warning</b> to the journalist for his work for an unaccredited mass medium. The grounds for the warning were his materials for the Belarusian <i>Radio Racyja</i> (Poland).
4.04.2014	Maxim Khliabets		independent journalist	In Brest Maxim Khliabets was summoned to the Soviet district police department as a witness in an administrative case. However, the questioning did not relate to the case under consideration – the journalist was <b>questioned</b> about his alleged professional activities for <i>Belarusian Radio Racyja</i> . The journalist said at the end of the talk the police officers tried to induce him to cooperation and threatened with liability.
15.04.2014	Sviatlana Stsiapanava		independent journalist	The journalist from Vitebsk, got a <b>warning</b> from the prosecutor's office for contributing to the Belarusian service of <i>Polish Radio for Foreigners</i> .
17.04.2014	Alena Stsiapanava		independent journalist	In Vitebsk Alena Stsiapanava was <b>summoned by phone to the Kastychnitski district police department</b> of the city. The journalist was asked to give explanations about an anonymous article "Vitebsk school pupils refuse to learn the hymn" published on the <i>Radio Svaboda</i> website in January. The investigation officer said he had started an administrative case under the administrative article 22.9. On May 3, she received an official reply that the administrative case was finally dismissed. According to the letter, the journalist had been accused of contributing to the Russian service of the RFE/RL.
20.04.2014	Hanna Azemsha	<i>Novy Chas</i> newspaper	journalist	On April 20 the journalist for <i>Novy Chas</i> newspaper Hanna Azemsha was <b>stopped at the border point</b> Kamenny Loh: she was made to return to Lithuania and leave there 130 plus 65 copies of informational bulletins about elections observation. The journalist's car was <b>searched</b> for several hours. Nothing was seized, but she was told to go back and leave there the bulletins. Only after doing so, the journalist was allowed to move on.
9.05.2014	Valery Kalinouski	<i>Radio Svaboda</i>	correspondent	The journalist, together with camera crew, was <b>detained</b> while doing online reporting near Minsk-Arena. The team was taken to the central district police department. They were questioned about who they were and what they were doing, and set free two hours later.

17.05.2014	Yauhen Skrabets	<i>Belarusian Radio Racyja</i>	journalist	<p>Yauhen Skrabets was <b>detained</b> not far from his home in Brest under the pretext he reminded some criminal; he was taken to the Leninski district police department and accused of minor hooliganism (article 17.1 of the Administrative Code).</p> <p>On May 19, court started hearing the case. The journalist motioned to invite a lawyer and to postpone the hearing, which the judge upheld: the next hearing was scheduled for May 21 and the journalist was set free. However, the police officers announced that they were detaining him again. The journalist was taken to the courtroom again and sentenced to ten days' imprisonment under charges of minor hooliganism.</p>
23.05.2014	Aleh Zhalnou		blogger	<p>Police officers <b>searched</b> the flat of the local blogger Aleh Zhalnou in Babruisk. The search was conducted within investigation under article 340 of the Criminal Code "Deliberately false informing about danger". According to the searches warrant, the case was opened on May 5. It is more likely to be linked to the episode when the blogger was visiting the head of the Investigative Committee. Then he had to leave his belongings to a storage room and made an ironic commentary about a bomb. The police seized information carriers and equipment.</p>
3.06.2014	Iryna Arakhouskaya	<i>Nasha Niva</i> newspaper	photographer	<p>Police officers <b>interfered with journalistic work</b> at opening a new metro station in Minsk. Iryna Arakhouskaya made a photo of a police officer going out from the tube with a drunk man. The police officers ordered to delete photos threatening her with detention.</p>
9.06.2014	Maryna Malchanava		independent journalist	<p>Maryna Malchanava <b>was summoned to the police department</b> of the Babruysk City Executive Committee "for a talk". She was asked about her professional activities, and then demonstrated photos of participants of an opposition action held in the city. A policeman wanted the journalist to identify people in the photo. Maryna Malchanava answered she did not attend the action and could not help.</p>
11.06.2014	Maxim Hliabets		independent journalist	<p>Maxim Hliabets was summoned to the Brest region prosecutor's office where he received a <b>warning</b> dated June 10 for violating the legislation (contributing to the Radio Racyja without accreditation).</p>
25.07.2014	Mikita Brouka	<i>Novy Chas</i> newspaper	journalist	<p>People in plain clothes <b>detained</b> and taken to the Soviet district police department in Minsk, fingerprinted and had a talk. He was offered to answer questions with a lie detector, but he refused.</p>
18.08.2014	Aliaksandr Burakow		independent journalist	<p>Aliaksandr Burakow was <b>summoned to a police station for an explanation</b> as a person under administrative prosecution for cooperation with a foreign mass medium without accreditation, in particular a report published on <i>Belsat</i> in autumn 2013. The report dealt with a critical condition of a building in Mahilow. After the publication, the regional KGB department held an investigation and found people from the report. They were offered to identify the journalist who had talked to them. The journalist claimed he had not cooperated with <i>Belsat</i>.</p>
19.08.2014	Mikhail Arshynski		journalist	<p><b>Mikhail Arshynski</b> was questioned at a police department in Mahilow about the same report as <b>Aliaksandr Burakow</b>. The journalist did not deny that he was recorded in the report, but he said he did not know how the report got to <i>Belsat</i>. An inspector said that the task to hold investigation into the matter came "from Minsk, from the Ministry".</p>

3.09.2014	Viachaslau Piashko and others		TV journalists	A group of TV journalists were <b>detained</b> near a metro station in Minsk. They were making a TV episode on an action of the organizational committee of the Belarusian Christian Democracy Party: the people were collecting signatures under the petition to stop Russian TV channels being broadcast in Belarus. The activists and the journalists were taken to the police department of the Frunzenski district. The journalists were set free after an interrogation without any protocols.
16.09.2014	Natallia Valakida Ales Barasenk Siarhei Satsiuk	<i>BelaPAN</i>	freelancer freelancer correspondent	The journalists were <b>detained</b> for three hours after they were taking an interview from the Homel activist Yury Rubtsov before his administrative trial for insulting a judge. The detention was performed by plain-clothed police. They wanted to verify if the journalists were accredited. The journalists were set free without any protocols.
16.09.2014	Aliaksandr Burakow		independent journalist	Police <b>searched</b> Aliaksandr Burakow's and his parents' flats. The searches were sanctioned by the prosecutor's office of Mahilow city. They followed three publications on the website <i>DW.DE</i> authored by Aliaksandr Burakow. As a result the police seized two laptops and two flashcards from his flat and two ones from his parents' flat. The same day, the journalist was <b>questioned</b> by police. He was accused of violating <b>Article 22.9</b> of the Code of Administrative Offences (unlawful production and distribution of mass media products).
9.10.2014	Iryna Arakhouskaya Aliaksandr Barazenska	<i>Nasha Niva</i> newspaper	journalist cameraman	In Barysaw the journalists faced with obstacles when covering the football match Belarus–Ukraine. Police officers <b>forced</b> Iryna Arakhouskaya <b>to delete the video</b> of detaining a football fan with a scarf of Pahonia (national coat of arms). Aliaksandr Barazenska was detained for ID check after he recorded how security guards did not allow fans to enter the stadium with the scarf "Belarus. We will win".
20.10.2014	Aliaksandr Liubianchuk Maria Artsybashava		journalists	The journalists were <b>detained</b> in Minsk when taking an interview from the ex-candidate for presidency Uladzimir Niakliayew. The journalists and the interviewee were taken to the Soviet district police department. Their identities were verified through the computer data base; the policemen also wanted to view the recorded materials. The journalists and the interviewee were set free an hour later, without drawn up any procedural documents.
10.11.2014	Viachaslau Piashko Ales Bondarau		TV journalists	Viachaslau Piashko and Ales Bondarau were <b>detained</b> while they were recording a talk with a trade union activist near a plant in Babruysk. In the police department, the journalists were questioned. Around three hours after the incident, the journalists were set free. They were recommended not to write about the hunger strike and the protest actions, otherwise all participants of the protest would be prosecuted under administrative law.
24.11.2014	Larysa Shchyrakova		independent journalist	Russian border guards <b>detained</b> the journalist from Homel and her driver when they were making a video report on inspection of cargoes moving across the Belarusian and Russian border. The incident took place in Novozybkov district, Bryansk region, Russia at the point of transport control. The detainees were questioned for two hours and a half, a part of their recorded materials was deleted.
25.11.2014	Aliaksandr Alesin	<i>Belorusy / Rynok</i> weekly	military observer	Aliaksandr Alesin was <b>detained</b> by special services. The same day his flat was <b>searched</b> . On December 8, the detainee's relatives reported he had been charged with treason (Art. 356 of the Criminal Code)

				<p>and cooperation with special services of a foreign state (art. 356-1); he faced imprisonment of 7 to 15 years. The prime suspect of the crimes was a foreign diplomat, they told.</p> <p>On December 10, the journalist was released under recognizance not to leave the country, due to deteriorating health. The treason charge was dropped.</p>
6.12.2014	Uladz Hrydzin		freelance photographer	<p>Uladz Hrydzin was briefly <b>detained</b> in Minsk, near Kamarouski market, when he was taking photo of a civil action of distributing ribbons with national ornament. Together with the detained participants of the action, he was released after having given explanaitons.</p>
15.12.2014	Ales Zaleuski	Televizia Polska	journalist	<p>Ales Zaleuski was summoned to the Prosecutor's Office of the City of Minsk where he received <b>an official warning</b> for unlawful work for a foreign mass medium without accreditation. The warning concerned a video report on Belsat TV about the scandalous expulsion of the human rights defender Elena Tonkacheva. According to information of the prosecutor, it was Ales Zaleuski who interviewed her.</p>