Belarus: A Coordinated Policy of Torture

A FORENSIC EXPERT ASSESSMENT OF 50 TORTURE CASES IN EUROPE'S LAST DICTATORSHIP

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF TORTURE IN BELARUS

irct
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

COUNTRY REPORT

irct.org

2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 Summary

4 Introduction

5 Organisations

6 Data

8 Allegations

12 Evidence

16 Findings

17 Recommendations

2021 © International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Cover Photograph
MINSK, BELARUS - AUGUST 9, 2020: Law enforcement officers detain a man participating in a protest against the results of the 2020 Belarusian presidential election. Natalia Fedosenko/TASS (Photo by Natalia Fedosenko\TASS via Getty Images)

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) is an independent, international health-based human rights organisation which promotes and supports the rehabilitation of torture victims, promotes access to justice and works for the prevention of torture worldwide. **The vision of the IRCT is a world without torture.**

Vesterbrogade 149, building 4, 3rd floor, 1620 Copenhagen V, Denmark
Phone: +45 44 40 18 30 | Fax: +45 44 40 18 54 | Email: irct@irct.org
For more information, please visit www.irct.org

SUMMARY

According to the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus, there have been approximately 5,000 complaints of torture or ill-treatment during the Summer and Autumn of 2020, but after conducting its checks, the Committee has decided not to initiate any criminal cases. In its decision it notes that:

"The collected evidence, including the video recordings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, allows us to ascertain compliance with the requirements of the law, the use of physical force and special means by employees in the suppression of offenses. Allegations of alleged abuse of office, torture, sexual abuse, now widespread by extremist telegram channels, have not been confirmed."

In response to this statement, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and its Independent Forensic Expert Group (IFEG) asserted the importance of conducting effective forensic investigation with a view to ensuring accountability and reparations for victims of these extensive human rights violations.

Based on our expert review of the medical and visual evidence in 50 cases, randomly selected from a database of around 1,500 complaints made to the International Committee for Investigation of Torture in Belarus, **the IRCT and IFEG find compelling evidence of a systematic practice of torture and ill-treatment against individuals suspected of participating in protests in Belarus across the country.**

Drawn from detentions carried out in 7 cities across Belarus, these testimonies of torture and ill-treatment bear striking similarity, as do their injuries, and present evidence of punitive use of force that would qualify them as torture and ill-treatment.

Taken altogether, it is our expert opinion that this highly patterned evidence of injuries in the cases of 50 individuals from 7 different cities detained at 15 different police departments and detention centres suggests a coordinated policy and practice of systematic torture and ill-treatment against Belarusian citizens.

This report, which is one of the first by experts to review the available forensic evidence, firmly establishes the existence of medical and visual evidence that is consistent with and corroborates the allegations of torture and ill-treatment by complainants in every case we examined.

Our expert findings raise serious concerns about what appears to be a summary and incredulous dismissal of complaints by the Belarusian authorities in the face of compelling forensic evidence of widespread and systematic use of torture and ill-treatment and reinforces the need for truly independent and effective investigation into the extensive human rights violations following the 9 August 2020 elections.

INTRODUCTION

The 2020 presidential elections in the Republic of Belarus were marked by fear and intimidation of voters and observers. They were not recognised by the international community as fair and democratic.

On 9 August 2020, after the closure of polling stations and posting of the protocols of the election commissions, peaceful protesters throughout the country demanded non-recognition of the official election results and holding of new fair elections. The authorities responded to the peaceful protests with a wave of mass repressions, unprecedented, brutal and massive violations of human rights: torture, violence, enforced disappearances, rape, destruction of property, and killings.

According to human rights defenders, at least 1,000 people filed claims to the territorial departments of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus of the Prosecutor's Office to initiate criminal cases against law enforcement officers, temporary detention centres, police stations, and other places of detention on the grounds of torture, abuse of power and malfeasance. A year after elections, the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus reported that they had received around 5,000 complaints related to ill-treatment during Summer-Autumn 2020. Nevertheless, every complaint was allegedly checked and rejected as "unconfirmed".

In cooperation with the International Committee for Investigation of Torture in Belarus (ICITB), the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and its Independent Forensic Expert Group (IFEG) have conducted an expert review of the visual and medical evidence in 50 cases to assess whether evidence exists to support the allegations of torture and ill-treatment by complainants. This report provides our findings.

ORGANISATIONS

a. International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)

Comprised of 161 centres in 76 countries, the IRCT is the world's largest membership-based organisation working in the field of torture rehabilitation and a global leader in forensic investigations of alleged torture cases. We are also a key provider of technical expertise to several state authorities and intergovernmental bodies of the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN). In the past 34 years, we have assisted hundreds of thousands of torture victims worldwide, which equips us with an expansive knowledge of the global prevalence and practices of torture. It also gives us a profound understanding of the steps needed to effectively investigate and prevent torture.

b. Independent Forensic Expert Group (IFEG)

The IFEG currently consists of 42 preeminent experts from 23 different countries with a range of medical and mental health specialisations, including in medicine, psychology, psychiatry, pathology, forensic anthropology, and psychotherapy. Members of the IFEG are world leading experts and include several authors and contributors to the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (The Istanbul Protocol).

Members have testified in court and other forums over 4,600 times and conducted 2,000 trainings on documenting torture. Members often contribute their expertise to and advise governments, international organisations, treaty bodies, professional health associations, non-governmental organisations, and academic institutions on forensics in general and on the investigation and documentation of torture in specific. Together, we have examined over 40,000 alleged torture victims and authored or edited over 2,400 scientific articles and books.

c. International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus (ICITB):

The International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus (ICITB or Committee) was created as a reaction of Belarusian and foreign human rights organisations to torture and brutality towards civilians after the presidential elections on 9 August 2020. The Committee's objectives are to: document torture, brutality, use of weapons and special equipment against civilians; search for witnesses and evidence of torture; identify suspects in torture and inhumane treatment; process the information received; prepare lawsuits and legal support of torture victims; communicate with and make appeals to international organisations; prepare reports on the collected information for the general public of Belarus, as well as for international organisations; interact with governmental, non-governmental actors, including national and international courts and the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Belarus.

The activities of the Committee are based on the Principles of Activity of Human Rights Defenders of Belarus. In addition, for this purpose, they adhere to and emphasise the following in their work: confidentiality of information and security for its members; interaction of all stakeholders; work according to unified methodology and concentration of information in a single database. The members include "Legal Initiative", Human Constanta, the Center for the Promotion of Women's Rights "Her Rights", the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, public association "Zvyano", Belarusian Documentation Center, public organisation Truth Hounds, charitable foundation East-SOS, the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement, Human Rights Center ZMINA (Ukraine), the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and Moscow Helsinki Group.

DATA

The ICITB interviewed and collected cases of around 1,500 people who reported torture and ill-treatment. For this report, the ICITB randomly selected 50 cases with photographs, videos and medical records.

In total, the 50 case files included 130 documents with 613 pages, 286 photographs and four videos. Every case file contained an interview with an individual claiming to have been arrested between the 9-12 August 2020 and subjected to torture or ill-treatment by the police and security forces during and/or subsequent to arrest. Almost every case file (49 cases) also included photographs of the complainant's injuries taken at or before the time of interview. In addition, 35 cases included medical documentation. All case materials were translated by the ICITB from Belarusian to English.

The IRCT and IFEG analysed the visual and medical evidence in each of these cases in accordance with the principles and guidelines set forth in the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (The Istanbul Protocol), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – Professional Training Series No. 8, Geneva, 2001. The IRCT and IFEG regularly provide expertise on the use of this instrument, which defines the international standard for the obligation to conduct a prompt and impartial investigation, including forensic examination, wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that an act of torture has been committed.

Our aim was to determine the extent to which the available visual and medical evidence in each case is consistent with the individual's allegations of torture and ill-treatment. In addition, we sought to determine whether the visual and medical evidence altogether revealed any patterns or practices of punitive use of force by law enforcement officials, which would qualify it as torture and ill-treatment.

The randomly selected cases under analysis spread across seven Belarusian cities—namely, Lida (2 cases), Grodno (2 cases), Baranovichi (2 cases), Pinsk (2 cases), Molodechno (1 case), Borisov (1 case), and Minsk (40 cases) – covering some of the country's most populated regions. Our analysis covers incidents experienced in 15 different police departments and detention facilities located therein. Based on the information provided, individuals were detained at these facilities between 0 and 6 days, with an average length of 2.5 days:

Lida – Lida Police Department

Grodno – Grodno Leninskiy Police Department

Baranovichi – Pre-trial Detention Facility No.6

Pinsk – Pinsk Town Police Department

Minsk – Leninskiy Police Department, Sovetski Police Department, Partizanskiy Police Department, Mokovskiy Police Department, Okrestina Detention Centre, Fruzenskiy Police Department, Oktyabriskiy Police Department, Centralniy Police Department, Pervomaiskiy Police Department

Molodechno – Molodechno Police Department

Borisov – Borisov Police Department

They immediately attacked us.... I remember there was a hard blow to my head. Then I just lay down. My hands were immediately pulled behind my back, and then a long incomprehensible beating began: I lay there, doing nothing, they just beat me. They asked their standard questions: “How much did they pay you?”

“They beat me on my back, mainly under the knees, on the legs.... At one point after the fifth or sixth blow to the head, I started yelling: “Stop hitting my head!” so they started beating my back.”

“Periodically, someone would come, strike a couple of blows and leave. Then someone else comes up, asks something, and also strikes a couple of blows and leaves. I don’t understand why and why they did this.”

“While they were driving us, they periodically beat us as well. I do not know why, what for, but as we drove, we talked. They said: “You wanted a change?” Then they gave a few more blows.”

ALLEGATIONS

In the 50 cases we reviewed, individuals allege to have been subjected to a vast array of abuses by the police and security forces including, in almost all instances, severe beating, threats, and humiliation, as well as electric shock (2 cases), shooting by rubber bullets at close range (2 cases) and live ammunition (1 case), and multiple instances of threats of sexual violence. In addition, individuals appear to have endured miserable detention conditions, including crowded cells, unhygienic conditions, deprivation of food and water, and denial of medical treatment.

While every individual's experience is distinct and personal, their stories bear striking similarity in three ways despite spanning seven cities and 15 different police or detention facilities.

Targeted due to suspected participation in or support for protests

Based on their testimonies, individuals appear to have been targeted due to suspected participation or support in protests irrespective of whether they were actively engaged in any such activities at the time. Often, the OMON or Otryad militsii osobogo naznachenia – a 'Special Purpose Police Detachment' that serves as riot police under the Ministry of Internal Affairs – has been implicated in the commission of abuses. Its members wear balaclavas to keep their identity secret. See for illustration:

Excerpt from Baranovichi, 10 August 2020:

On the evening of August 10, I was walking home. The riot police officers stopped me. When I stopped, they yelled at me to lie down on the ground. Then they ran up to me and started beating me. Beat with feet, batons, then grabbed me by the arms and legs and carried me into the paddy wagon. While they were carrying me, they stopped several times and beat me again. They put me on the ground near the paddy wagon and started shouting, "Who did you vote for?" All this was accompanied by obscenities. I was silent. "For Tikhanovskaya?" I was silent. They continued to beat me.

Excerpt from Grodno, 11 August 2020:

Well, there was a certain demonstration, cars were going by, naturally flying our flag and honking, people were standing on the sidewalks. I was also walking along the sidewalk and stopped to watch. At one point, I jumped up onto the sidewalk…a light-colored minibus drove up. People in black T-shirts jump out, in berets, also in black, protective masks. With batons. Well, and they wore khaki pants and ankle boots. So that means, most likely, that they were OMON… I understood that I'd be beaten, so I took off. I ran 100-150 meters, then I got tired. Well, I'm almost 60 years old …. I just fell on my stomach, I got into the most comfortable position. Immediately they began to beat me, that is, they made several blows to my head with a baton, cut the skin, naturally it started bleeding… They beat me, well, they beat me in the face. On the right side, there was a very severe bruise under my eye. My temple ached. They

beat me in the ribs. There was a big bruise there later. They broke two of my ribs on the left side. Here.

Excerpt from Pinsk, 10 August 2020:

It was after my shift, in the evening. We sat on a bench and wanted to have coffee. At that time, riot police officers walked down the street, several of them ran up to us, they grabbed me by the arms, led me behind the line, put my face on the sidewalk, fastened black plastic ties on my arms. Then they hit me eight times with their legs and with truncheons on my legs, buttocks, ribs, arms and shoulders. I even had a crack in my rib. Then one of the officers picked me up, a dark blue minibus arrived, and they put me there. Besides me, there were five detainees.

Beatings with fists, kicks and batons during transportation

Seventy six percent of individuals (38) claim to have been beaten with fists, kicks and batons while mostly lying face down during transportation to the detention facility often in a so-called paddy wagon (autazak in Belarusian, pictured below) – a large truck several metres in length used to transport prisoners, frequently used by the riot police.

Excerpt from Minsk, 12 August 2020:

They waited for the paddy wagon to arrive...They threw us into the paddy wagon, put us on the floor. We were laid on the floor with hands tied. And they beat us a little with truncheons - a couple of blows. They beat us with truncheons, stomped on our backs with their feet and on the

head. They beat me constantly, without stopping. But when they asked something, then they stopped beating. I was in the paddy wagon for about 30 minutes.

Then they began to demand telephones. They took my phone, but it was necessary to remove the password. I started to refuse. They continued to beat me. They beat me mainly on the buttocks, legs, and thighs. They beat, beat ... They did not like that I asked them what the password was for. I asked why, they started beating me, then it was like "Unblock," I said no. They continued to beat further. At some point, I just stopped understanding what was happening there. I yelled, they beat me. There was a thought that they would get bored and they would let me go, but we got to the police station, unloaded everyone, and left me.

Some OMON officer came up, apparently some kind of boss with them, I don't know. He was in the same uniform but wearing a gray balaclava. We were sitting in this paddy wagon, and he began to say that our specialists are now unlocking everything, why do you need it. He left with the phone, they continued to beat me. Already at that moment I was alone in a paddy wagon with riot policemen. This guy comes back after a while with my phone, says that it did not work out. They went to fetch water, went down, poured water on me, said that the baton would fit better and continued to beat me when I was already wet.

At some point they got tired, they took out a truncheon, said - "You fagot" - they were carrying some kind of game. They cut my pants, put a baton between the buttocks and then I said that I would unblock. They gave me my phone, removed the ties, I was in some kind of semi-sedentary state. My head was very dizzy, I also got several blows on the head. I started unblocking, asked this one in a gray balaclava, like if they would at least stop beating me. He said - "Honest officer." I gave him the phone, he left, and they continued to beat me. Then they lifted me up and started to take me out of the paddy wagon.

Beating checkpoints – Torture corridors

Individuals from the cities of Lida, Baranovichi, Pinsk, and Minsk each allege to have to gone through some sort of gauntlet or "death corridor" or beating checkpoint upon arrival at the police station or detention facility, typically with beatings by fists, kicks and batons.

Excerpt from Minsk, Detention Facility A, 12 August 2020:

We arrived somewhere, we did not know where. There were no guesses. We sat in the minibus. We arrived and someone reported again that 18 were brought. They opened the minibus, the cameras were opened one by one, one at a time, swearing. Swearing, humiliation like "here are the changes you wanted." The minibus was opened, there was a line, from the minibus to the yard, to the cells. A line of riot police lined up on both sides. While we were running, they beat us on the back with truncheons, that is, they urged us on. On the heels, someone fell over him, they beat him even harder.

Excerpt from Minsk, Detention Facility B, 11 August 2020:

We were brought to this garage. It turns out that the paddy wagon stopped in some kind of backyard, where there were garages. That is, they opened the door, forced us to go out,

shouted, all this was accompanied by some humiliation ... again, some kind of insults, that is, you need to "go," you need to do things quickly, if someone does not do it quickly, they hit them on the legs. At the exit from the paddy wagon, these riot policemen (presumably) stood out, lined up in a kind of path ... Each person had to walk along this path, they stood along the sides and beat people on the back, on the legs, with different degree of force. Then we were put against the wall of the garage, all facing the wall with our hands behind our backs, and we had to stand like that. Now and further, we were not allowed to look at anything. Almost always we had to keep the head against the wall so that we would not see anything what was happening, because ... Anything there ... an attempt to talk or turn the head - naturally, the blows would come, and so on.

Excerpt from Baranovichi, 10 August 2020:

There, at the entrance, there was a kind of "death corridor" (we later called it that): employees stood along the walls, there were about 20 of them, in uniform, and on their faces were medical masks, and while we were running or crawling (who as best he could) along this corridor, they were severely beating us. The guy in front of me, he looked about 15 years old, because of this horror, these beatings, screams, he just peed in his pants. They beat us very severely, as if they wanted to kill us.

Excerpt from Lida, 11 August 2020:

When they brought us to the police station in Lida, they drove us through the gate and unloaded us at the police car wash station. There was a corridor of 7-8 people, and they let us two through it. They were grabbing our arms, wringing our hands, and kicking us in the ribs with their feet and knees. Then they put us "snout down" on the floor (as they put it). I could only catch a glimpse of riot police officers, about 15 people, all wearing masks, without identification marks, with batons ... And there were 30-40 people detained, they were lying down in a row. We were put on the ground in the same row. This was all at the police station in Lida.

Excerpt from Pinsk, 10 August 2020:

To the main police station ...They opened the door. There they started very tough. I am standing - they hit me sharply with a truncheon on the back ... One holds me. Those who accompanied were already gone. Immediately a blow to the back. He immediately grabbed me by the handcuffs, and up and down me. I walk up the steps, and he hurts me down with all his might. And I already have no strength. He screams - straighten up! I start to straighten up, he starts to beat ... He takes me there. And there are so many of them! And I understood - that's it. Well, nothing, maybe a little beat. There, it turns out, is a checkpoint ... There was a whole army of them. 20. When they lead near the checkpoint, they begin to beat: some with a foot, some with a club, some with a fist. While they are leading. They beat me hard enough. I remember that they punched me in the tooth, I thought they knocked me out.

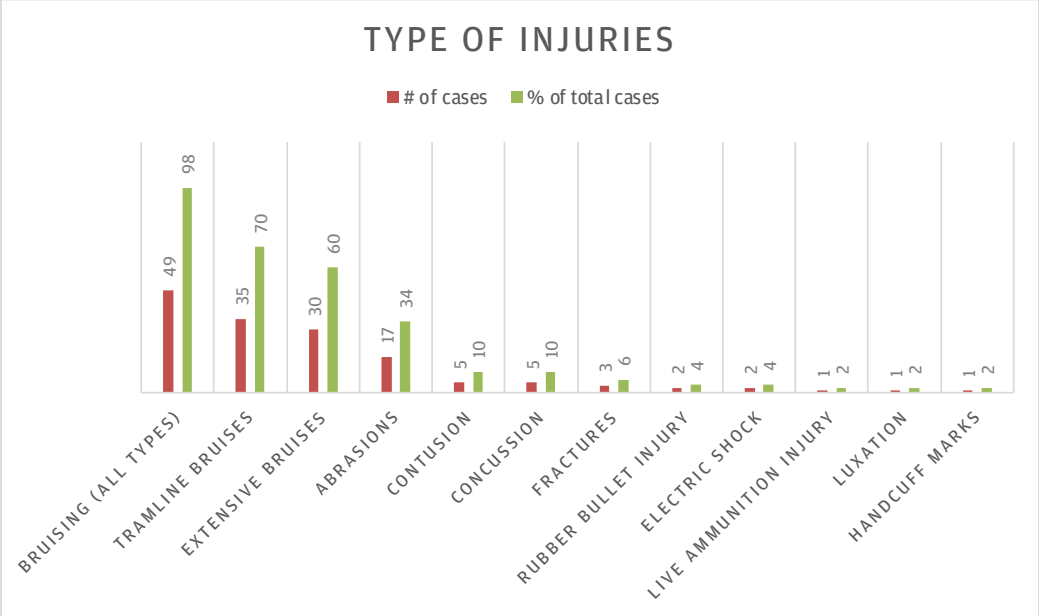
EVIDENCE

When examining the visual and medical evidence in these 50 cases, we have found that the type, extent and location of injuries also bear striking similarity for all individuals across the seven cities and 15 detention centres. This is to be expected in light of the similar abusive practices that have been alleged to have taken place as outlined above.

For instance, calculating the frequency of injury based on location, we have found that the visual and medical evidence demonstrates injury to lower limbs of individuals in 92% of the cases. In 72% of cases, we have evidence of injury to the glutei and buttocks, as well as injury to the back in 66% of cases. See chart below for further detail.

Injury type	Head N(%)	Neck N(%)	Back N(%)	Front N(%)	Upper limbs N(%)	Glutei & buttocks N(%)	Lower limbs N(%)
Tramline	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**14** (42.42)	**1** (12.50)	**2** (7.14)	**23** (63.89)	**29** (63.04)
Bruise	**8** (57.14)	**1** (50.00)	**16** (48.48)	**5** (62.50)	**12** (42.86)	**13** (36.11)	**9** (19.57)
Laceration	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)
Abrasions	**3** (21.43)	**1** (50.00)	**2** (6.06)	**1** (12.50)	**10** (35.71)	**0** (0.00)	**6** (13.04)
Rubber gunshot	**1** (7.14)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**1** (2.17)
Contusion	**2** (14.29)	**0** (0.00)	**1** (3.03)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)
Fracture	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**2** (7.14)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)
Gunshot	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**1** (2.17)
Handcuff marks	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**1** (3.57)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)
Dislocation	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**1** (3.57)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)
Electric mark	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**1** (12.50)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)	**0** (0.00)
Total	**14** (100)	**2** (100)	**33** (100)	**8** (100)	**28** (100)	**36** (100)	**46** (100)
% in Total Sample	**28 %**	**4 %**	**66 %**	**16 %**	**56 %**	**72 %**	**92 %**

Moreover, when analysing the precise nature of the injuries observed in each case, we identified bruising across different regions of the body in all but one instance (98%). Of the cases where bruising was identified, 71% presented tramline bruises highly likely produced through the use of a baton or similar instrument whilst 61% were marked by extensive bruising generally found across the buttocks and lower limbs. A third of cases similarly demonstrated the presence of mixed abrasions, whilst an additional 10% reported contusions and/or having experienced brain concussions.



An examination of the photographic evidence in cases also illustrates the remarkable similarity between injuries of individuals. For instance, see the following photographs of 13 different individuals each detained at a different police station or detention facility in the cities of Grodno, Lida, Pinsk, Baranovichi and Minsk. In each case, these injuries are consistent with allegations of extensive beating across the glutei and buttocks and lower limbs by fists, kicks and batons, which has been alleged during transportation and on arrival to the different police stations and detention facilities. For further details on the breakdown of injury type and location per case see the Annex.

The following two pages contains graphic images of the injuries described.

FINDINGS

Based on our expert review of the medical and visual evidence in 50 cases, randomly selected from a database of around 1,500 complaints made to the International Committee for Investigation of Torture in Belarus, the IRCT and IFEG find compelling evidence of a systematic practice of torture and ill-treatment against individuals suspected of participating in protests in Belarus across the country.

Having examined the visual (photographic and video) evidence and medical documentation in each of the 50 cases, it is our expert opinion that in all cases (100%), the evidence is consistent with the allegations as presented by individuals in their testimony. While this number may seem high, we note that the filing of a complaint against the police and security forces in Belarus is fraught with risk and danger, including the possibility of legal persecution (such as initiation by the State of a criminal case against complainants for illegal protesting) and an individual would receive little or no benefit from filing a complaint.

In addition, the extensive bruising we see in 60% of cases, as well as the multiple injuries sustained in several cases, provides compelling evidence of widespread punitive use of force by the police and security forces, which would qualify their use of force as torture and ill-treatment.

As presented in this report, the striking similarities in the allegations of 50 individuals from seven cities detained at 15 different police and detention facilities evidences a patterned practice of torture and ill-treatment.

Considered together with the visual and medical evidence of injuries, which are in every case consistent with the individuals' allegations, this suggests a coordinated policy and practice of systematic torture and ill-treatment against Belarusian citizens during the Summer-Autumn 2020.

Our expert findings raise serious concerns about what appears to be a summary and incredulous dismissal of complaints by the Belarusian authorities in the face of compelling forensic evidence of widespread and systematic use of torture and ill-treatment and reinforces the need for truly independent and effective investigation into the extensive human rights violations following the 9 August 2020 elections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of these findings the IRCT recommends the following to Belarusian authorities:

- Conduct an independent and effective investigation into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment since August 2020 in accordance with the international standards employed in this evaluation, including the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (The Istanbul Protocol);
- Ensure that all victims receive comprehensive reparation in accordance with the international human rights law standards;
- Invite the UN Special Rapporteur and OHCHR fact-finding mission to Belarus experts to conduct a visit to Belarus with guarantees of full respect for the standard Terms of Reference for country visits by UN Special Procedures mandate holders;
- Fully respect the applicable rules of international human rights law, including by ordering the immediate release of individuals still detained in police custody on political grounds.

The IRCT also calls upon the international community to continue promoting justice and reparation for the human rights violations in Belarus including by:

- Supporting the initiation of international accountability processes for torture and other human rights violations committed in Belarus;
- Supporting organisations that work against against torture and provide health-based rehabilitation and other support to Belarusian victims of torture and ill-treatment;
- Using all available foreign policy tools and measures to pressure the Belarusian authorities to comply with its international human rights obligations.

ANNEX

#	Evidence type	Head	Neck	Back	Front	Upper limbs	Glutei & buttocks	Lower limbs	Internal injuries	
1	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
1	Photos						extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
2	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
2	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
3	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3	Photos	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	0	tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
4	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
4	Photos	lacerated wound; extensive bruises	0	tramline bruises	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
5	Medical files	multiple	0	multiple	0	0	multiple	multiple hematomas	0	
5	Photos	0	1	tramline bruises	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
6	Medical files	N/A	0		0	0	bruises	bruises	0	
6	Photos	0	0		0	0	tramline bruises, external injuries	tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
7	Medical files	0	0	0	0	0	0	tramline bruises, abrasions	0	Consistent
7	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	tramline bruises	0	
8	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8	Photos	0	0	0	0	bruises	bruises	tramline bruises, abrasions	N/A	Consistent

9	Medical files	0	0	0	0	0	extensive bruises, measuring 40*20 cm;	extensive bruises;	possible renal injury	
9	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises		Consistent
10	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
10	Photos	0	0	bruising	0	0	extensive bruising; tramline bruises	extensive bruising; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
11	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
11	Photos	abrasions	0	bruises; abrasions	0	abrasions	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	0	Consistent
12	Medical files	0	0	bruising	0	0	0	bruising	0	
12	Photos	abrasions	0	bruises; tramline bruises	bruises	bruises; abrasions	extensive bruising; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
13	Medical files	0	0	bruises	0	bruises	bruises	bruises	brain concussion	
13	Photos	0	0	bruises; tramline bruises	0	bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
14	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
14	Photos	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	bruises	bruises; abrasions; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
15	Medical files	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rubber	0	
15	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	bruises; tramline bruises	rubber	N/A	Consistent
16	Medical files	bruises	0	bruises	bruises	bruises	bruises	bruises	ocular injury	
16	Photos	black eye; bruises; abrasions	0	0	0	0	bruises; tramline bruises	bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
17	Medical files	0	0	0	0	bruises	0	bruises	0	
17	Photos	0	0	0	0	bruises	bruises	0	N/A	Consistent

18	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
18	Photos	0	0	bruises	0	0	0	Bruises	N/A	Consistent
19	Medical files	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	0	bruises	bruises	bruises	0	
19	Photos	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	0	bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
20	Medical files	contusion	0	tramline bruising	multiple abrasions	fracture of the left middle finger	0	gunshot injury	Brain concussion	
20	Photos	contusion	0	0	0	0	0	gunshot injury	N/A	Consistent
21	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
21	Photos	bruise	0	0	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
22	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
22	Photos	bruise on the lips	0	extensive bruises in scapular region	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	bruise on the tight	N/A	Consistent
23	Medical files	contusion of a forehead	0	chest	0	0	extensive bruises	0	0	
23	Photos	0	0	Single tramline bruise	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	0	N/A	Consistent
24	Medical files	0	0	0	0	0	extensive bruises	0	0	
24	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	0	N/A	Consistent
25	Medical files	bruise on the lips	0	0	0	0	0	0	Brain concussion	
25	Photos from the screen- no injuries visible	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Consistent

26	Medical files	0	0	bruising in scapular region	0	hematoma on the upper arm; contusion of the finger	0	0	0	
26	Photos	0	0	0	smaller chest hematoma	handcuff marks; abrasions; brachial	single small bruise	0	N/A	Consistent
27	Medical files	0	0	0	0	Shoulder dislocation	0	0	0	
27	Photos-no details on injuries provided	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Consistent
28	Medical files	abrasion in temple	0		0	abrasions on forearms	0	abrasions on knees	0	
28	Photos		0	0	0	0	0	Multiple abrasions on knee and lower leg	N/A	Consistent
29	Medical files	rubber bullet injury to the face	0	0	0	0	0	0	corneal abrasion	
29	Photos	right	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Consistent
30	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
30	Photos	multiple abrasions	abrasions	0	bruises on the chest and abdomen	0	0	multiple bruises involving thigh and knee	N/A	Consistent
31	Medical files	scalp bruise	0	0	0	abrasions of forearms	extensive bruising	0	damage to ulnar nerve	
31	Photos	0	0	tramline bruising	0	abrasions and bruises	extensive bruising; tramline bruises	0	N/A	Consistent
32	Medical files	0	0	multiple	0	0	multiple	multiple hematomas	0	

32	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
33	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
33	Photos	0	0	extensive bruising in scapular region	0	0	extensive bruises	0	N/A	Consistent
34	Medical files	0	0	0	0	0	bruising in the left gluteal region	bruising on both thighs	0	
34	Video	0	0	0	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
35	Medical files	0	0	0	0	0	extensive bruises	extensive bruises	0	
35	Photos	0	0	tramline bruising	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
36	Medical files	0	0	chest	0	0	extensive bruises	extensive bruises	0	
36	Photos	0	0	tramline bruising	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
37	Medical files	facial and scalp	0	chest	0	0	extensive bruises	extensive bruises left thigh		
37	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	tramline bruises	tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
38	Medical files	0	0	0	0	0	bruises	bruises	0	
38	Photos	0	bruise	tramline bruising	0	0	bruises; tramline bruises	bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
39	Medical files	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Brain concussion	
39	Photos	bruises	0	tramline bruising	0	0	tramline bruises	tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
40	Medical files	0	0				bruises	bruises	0	
40	Photos	0	0		0	hematoma and abrasions	extensive hematoma	extensive hematoma	N/A	Consistent

41	Medical files	0	0		0	open metacarpal fracture; bruises	bruises	bruises	0	
41	Photos	0	0		0	fracture of the metacarpal bone	tramline bruises	tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
42	Medical files	0	0		0	0	bruises	bruises	0	
42	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	bruises	bruises	N/A	Consistent save for use of EDW
43	Medical files	facial	0	bruises	0	0	bruises	bruises	0	
43	Photos	facial	0	bruises	0	abrasions	0	extensive bruises; abrasions	N/A	Consistent
44	Medical files	0	0	Bruises	0	0	0	0	0	
44	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
45	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
45	Photos	forehead	0	0	0	abrasions	extensive bruises	0	N/A	Consistent
46	Medical files	0	0	0	0	abrasions	bruises	bruises	0	
46	Photos	0	0	abrasions	0	0	extensive bruises	bruises; abrasions	N/A	Consistent
47	Medical files	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
47	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
48	Medical files	0	0		0	hematoma	extensive bruises	extensive bruises	0	
48	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
49	Medical files	facial abrasions	0	bruises	0	0	0	bruises	brain concussion	
49	Photos	0	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises		extensive bruises	0	extensive bruises; tramline bruises	N/A	Consistent
	Medical files		0	0	electric mark					
	Photos	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Consistent

2021 © International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
Vesterbrogade 149, building 4, 3rd floor,
1620 Copenhagen V · Denmark
irct@irct.org