

Belarus Human Rights Index

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2023

Right to participate in public affairs

Expert Commentary

The Score:	1,8	-0,1
<i>Including scores by component::</i>		
• Participation in public affairs in non-electoral contexts	1,4	-0,1
• The right to vote and be elected	2,9	-0,1
• Access to public service	1,1	-0,1

A baseline assessment of the situation of the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs is provided in the 2019 commentary¹. The authoritarian tendencies of the time continue to worsen. The low scores for the right to elect and be elected, and the near-minimal scores for access to public service and participation in the conduct of public affairs in non-electoral contexts underscore the almost non-existent possibility of realizing these rights. The difference in scores should not be perceived as a significantly better situation with the right to elect and be elected: electoral procedures are conducted with serious violations of both national legislation and international standards, but they are formally implemented in full. The main problem of the current system of power is the almost complete absence of independent powers of state bodies. The formally enshrined competence and decision-making mechanisms are implemented in practice with reference to the so-called "vertical of power": any decision of any official can be adopted, changed or canceled as a result of political interference of the "vertical" headed by the presidential administration.

Assessing the state of the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs in 2023, the Index experts gave lower marks than in 2022. **Among the main reasons:**

- formalization of the model of distribution of state power introduced by the new version of the Constitution, exacerbating the imbalance in the system of representative bodies and, consequently, checks and balances (the law on the ABPA);
- radical changes in the political field: further complicating the activities of independent CSOs while repressions continue; introducing the requirement for re-registration of political parties (4 out of 16 parties remain);
- the use of other mechanisms for stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes is

¹ https://belhelcom.org/sites/default/files/11_pravo_prinimat_uchastie_v_vedenii_gosudarstvennyh_del_2019.docx_.pdf



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complicated by the general repressive atmosphere, massive restrictions, in particular on freedom of expression and freedom of association, which creates a reluctance to engage with state authorities in order to avoid attracting attention, which may be followed by arbitrary prosecution;

- continued trend of self-isolation of the country through withdrawal from international mechanisms and treaties; continued criticism and harassment by the authorities of independent CSOs engaging with international monitoring mechanisms;

- continued restriction of access to information: certain normative legal acts are not published, statistics on certain spheres of public life are becoming more inaccessible;

- changes in the mechanism of submitting and handling citizens' communications;

- the start of the election campaign (single day of voting-2024) in conditions of continuing systemic restrictions on freedom of expression, freedom of association and assembly, including total absence of the opposition agenda in the public field; significant adjustments to the EC did not solve the long-noted problems, but, on the contrary, laid the legal foundation for the practical impossibility of holding elections in accordance with Belarus' OSCE commitments and other international standards;

- the continued politicization of the civil service; the introduction of additional loyalist restrictions and the persecution of persons deemed disloyal by the state.

• Participation in public affairs in non-electoral contexts

In 2023, legislative regulation of mechanisms further mediating the interaction between citizens and the state evolved, narrowing the opportunities for all stakeholders to participate in the conduct of public affairs. Formalization of the model of distribution of state power introduced by the new version of the Constitution², which aggravates the imbalance in the system of representative bodies and, consequently, checks and balances³, continued: the law on the All-Belarusian People's Assembly (ABPA) was adopted. Taking into account the entire context of the political system - including the lack of guarantees of transparent and fair elections⁴ and thus unrepresentative deputies at all levels⁵; the lack of guarantees of judicial independence; the accountability of the executive vertical to the incumbent president; the unreasonably stringent legal requirements for "civil society actors" to be entitled to nominate one-third of ABPA delegates⁶; and the persecution of independent civil society organizations (CSOs) - the ABPA is presented as the "supreme representative body". The ABPA as the "supreme

² See National Human Rights Index, The Right to Participate in the Conduct of Public Affairs: Expert Commentary, 2022: https://belhelcom.org/sites/default/files/11._pravo_prinimat_uchastie_v_vedenii_gosudarstvennyh_del_2022.pdf

³ [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD\(2022\)035-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD(2022)035-e)

⁴ <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/113484>

⁵ Deputies of local councils elect almost one third of the members of the ABPA from their ranks, deputies of the House of Representatives are ex officio members of the ABPA

⁶ <https://www.lawtrend.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/analiz-proekta-zakona-o-grazhdanskom-obshhestve.pdf>

representative body" decides on "the most important issues of public and state life"⁷ and is generally vested with significant powers, including the restraint of directly elected government bodies⁸. At the same time, the detailed regulation of the procedure for the formation of this body, the formation and principles of functioning of its internal structure, and mechanisms for establishing a balance between representatives of different branches of power are transferred to the level of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the ABPA: the law on the ABPA does not regulate these issues⁹.

In addition, the voters of certain constituencies in 2023 were still left without even formal representation in the parliament: since 2020, due to the death of three deputies, the lower house of parliament has been exercising its powers in a truncated composition, and re-elections have not been scheduled.¹⁰

Experts also note a fundamental change in the political field: a year before the parliamentary and local elections, conditions were created to make it more difficult for independent CSOs to operate under ongoing repression¹¹, and a requirement for re-registration of political parties was introduced¹². Only 4 parties (all pro-governmental) out of 16 passed through the filter created in this way¹³. The new regulation also expanded the list of prohibited areas of party activities and the need to ensure their compliance with the main directions of the national security concept approved by the National Assembly, which will be an additional obstacle to the registration of new parties and other public associations and their participation in the conduct of public affairs.¹⁴

In addition, the composition of public advisory councils under ministries continues to be weakened: active and independent CSOs, whose representatives used to be members of the councils, due to their liquidation or a decision on self-liquidation, are mostly replaced by state and pro-state organizations,

⁷ Art. 30 of the Law on the All-Belarusian People's Assembly

<https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=H12300248&p1=1>

⁸ Among others, the decision of the ABPA on the "illegitimacy" of the elections of both the president and the parliament may become the basis for holding repeated elections, and the consideration of the issue of removing the president from office (Articles 18, 19 of the law "On the All-Belarusian People's Assembly")..

⁹ <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=H12300248&p1=1>

¹⁰ <https://news.zerkalo.io/economics/46814.html>; According to Article 88 of the Electoral Code, in case of early termination of a deputy's powers, new elections must be held in the respective constituency

¹¹ According to Lawtrend monitoring, as of December 31, 2023, at least 960 non-profit organizations were in the process of forced liquidation, 549 non-profit organizations decided to liquidate themselves. These measures are predominantly a consequence of the ongoing pressure from the state: <https://www.lawtrend.org/freedom-of-association/situatsiya-so-svobodnoj-assotsiatsij-i-organizatsiyami-grazhdanskogo-obshhestva-respubliki-belarus-obzor-za-dekabr-2023-g>

¹² See National Human Rights Index, The Right to Freedom of Association: Experts Commentary, 2023

¹³ <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/113484>

¹⁴ See the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 14.02.2023 N 251-3 "On Amendments to the Laws on the Activities of Political Parties and Other Public Associations" (<https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=H12300251>), его анализ (<https://www.lawtrend.org/freedom-of-association/pravovoe-regulirovanie-nko/novoe-v-zakonodatelstve/zakon-ob-obshhestvennyh-obedineniyah-osnovnye-izmeneniya>), as well as the National Human Rights Index, The Right to Freedom of Association: Expert Commentary, 2023: <https://index.belhelcom.org/>



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such as educational institutions and the Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM), which, according to experts, has led to the virtual disappearance of a platform for interaction between the state and CSOs.

The use of other mechanisms for stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes continues to be hampered by a general repressive atmosphere, with massive restrictions on, inter alia, freedom of expression¹⁵ and freedom of association¹⁶, which creates a reluctance to engage with state authorities in order to avoid attracting attention that could be followed by arbitrary prosecution. The existing mechanisms in such an atmosphere do not provide opportunities for effective participation in shaping the decision-making agenda outside of administrative control, discussion of topical issues with subsequent consideration of the opinions of all stakeholders, and grassroots initiative.

Opportunities for citizens' participation in the discussion of draft regulatory legal acts continue to narrow: in 2023, only 92 draft laws and regulations were submitted for public discussion, including 10 draft laws¹⁷ (for comparison: in 2022, 133 drafts were submitted for discussion, in 2020 - 195)¹⁸. The current procedure still does not guarantee that the opinions expressed by citizens in the legal forum will be taken into account in the further consideration of the draft or that significant feedback will be provided¹⁹ - the same applies to the collection of proposals in the draft plan for the preparation of draft legislative acts²⁰. The general lack of transparency in decision-making directly affecting the rights and freedoms of citizens and the absence of guarantees that public opinion will be taken into account continue to affect the actions of the state at the regional and international level, experts note the continuing trend of self-isolation of the country through withdrawal from international mechanisms and treaties.²¹

The general trend of restricting access to information continued: certain normative legal acts, including those potentially affecting the rights of citizens, are not published²², and statistics on certain areas of

¹⁵ See National Human Rights Index, The Right to Freedom of Expression: Expert Commentary, 2023

¹⁶ See National Human Rights Index, The Right to Freedom of Association: Expert Commentary, 2023

¹⁷ <https://forumpravo.by/publicnoe-obsuzhdenie-proektov-npa/forum15/>

¹⁸ https://belhelcom.org/sites/default/files/11._pravo_prinimat_uchastie_v_vedenii_gosudarstvennyh_del_2022.pdf

¹⁹ See Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 56 of January 28, 2019:

<https://pravo.by/document/?guid=11031&p0=c21900056>

²⁰ In 2023, only 4 citizen proposals: <https://forumpravo.by/opinion/103/>.

²¹ Among the examples of 2023, see the president's decision to temporarily deploy the PMC "Wagner" in Belarus (<https://news.zerkalo.io/life/42944.html>), Belarus' withdrawal from the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) (<https://www.belta.by/society/view/deputaty-prinjali-zakonoproekt-o-prekraschenii-mezhdunarodnyh-dogovorov-po-borbe-s-korrupsiej-601148-2023/>), withdrawal from the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (<https://news.zerkalo.io/economics/46578.html>), accession to a number of international treaties (including those contradicting Belarus' existing human rights obligations - see page 8: <https://baj.media/be/aglyady-manitoringi/ekstremizm-i-media-analitika-bazh/>) within the framework of obtaining the status of a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (<https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=H12300275>).

²² <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/44896.html>, <https://news.zerkalo.io/economics/31408.html>



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public life are becoming more inaccessible²³. Access to certain websites of government agencies from abroad is still restricted.²⁴

The existing procedures for resolving issues in the continuing atmosphere of fear and risks associated with statements that can be categorized as "political" allow for the resolution of mostly local, everyday problems that are not perceived as a threat by the authorities²⁵. In 2023, the mechanism for submitting citizens' communications has changed²⁶: all electronic communication with government agencies must be carried out through a centralized portal *обращения.бел* (appeals.bel). Experts note the problems associated with it: verification only by a Belarusian phone number, which complicates the submission of appeals from abroad²⁷. At the beginning of the year, users complained about the inoperability of the system²⁸. In general, the existing mechanism does not provide protection from arbitrary refusal to consider an appeal on its merits²⁹, and the actual consideration of citizens' opinions when making decisions related to the public interest³⁰.

Novelties in the regulation of work with citizens' communications have given officials the right to terminate a hotline or telephone call if "there are reasons to believe" that the appellant aims to discredit the Republic of Belarus³¹. The experts also emphasize the fictitious nature of public discussions held by the competent authorities to legitimize unpopular decisions³².

According to experts, the justifications provided by the competent authorities for the decisions taken are often manipulation of information. Free exchange of information and opinions on public, and even more so on political issues between citizens, candidates and elected representatives is virtually

²³ See National Human Rights Index, The Right to Freedom of Expression: Expert Commentary, 2023, component: Access to Information

²⁴ Among them are the websites of the National Bank (<https://www.nbrb.by/>), individual ministries (<http://minenergo.gov.by>) and executive committees (<http://minsk-region.gov.by>, <http://gomel-region.gov.by/>), government (www.government.by) and the Supreme Court (<https://www.court.gov.by/>), etc.

²⁵ See the situation of persecution of students from different universities who expressed their opinion on the order of the Ministry of Health introducing direct discrimination against women when enrolling in subordination programs (https://t.me/belhalat_by/8617), as well as searches of activists who collected signatures against the construction of the Kommunarka workshop (<https://belsat.eu/ru/news/30-03-2023-v-minske-proveli-obyski-u-aktivistov-sobirayushhih-podpisi-protiv-stroitelstva-novogo-tseha-kommunarki>)

²⁶ See Law No. 300-Z of July 18, 2011 "On Communications of Citizens and Legal Entities" <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=3871&p0=h11100300>

²⁷ <https://citydog.io/post/pomoshch-peticii/>, <https://ecohome.ngo/novyj-poryadok-podachi-elektronnyh-obrashhenij-rasskazyvaem-detali/>

²⁸ <https://e-petitions.by/petitions/5542>

²⁹ <https://petitions.by/articles/3869>

³⁰ <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/56425.html>

³¹ <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=C22300933>

³² In particular, see the situation with public hearings in connection with the activity of BelNPP: <https://ecohome.ngo/lipavyya-gramadskiya-sluhanni/>

impossible under the existing conditions.³³

In 2023, the practice of criticism and persecution by the authorities of independent CSOs cooperating with international monitoring mechanisms persisted. The Belarusian Association of Journalists, Human Rights Center "Viasna" were recognized as "extremist formations"³⁴. The existing regulation used to suppress freedom of expression (including "anti-extremist" legislation, articles on treason and discrediting the state³⁵) creates a risk of criminalization of human rights activities, including reporting on the human rights situation in Belarus³⁶. Experts also note attempts to legitimize the reorientation of the foreign policy vector, which are reflected, among other things, in the state's encouragement of interaction of quasi-civil society organizations (pro-governmental unions of employers, unions of lawyers, etc.) with mechanisms within the CIS and EAEU.

- **The right to vote and be elected**

The year 2023 was marked by preparations for the single day of voting in 2024 and the beginning of the election campaign: territorial, district, and precinct commissions were formed, candidates were nominated and registered, and campaigning began³⁷.

Elections^{*38} were again held in the absence of independent bodies to monitor the election process: legislative changes in 2023 did not ensure the independence of the CEC³⁹; district, territorial, and precinct commissions were formed under the control of the executive branch without the participation of independent political parties and other public associations⁴⁰. One of the novelties of 2023 was the exclusion from the EC of the obligation to publish the lists of members of election commissions by name (formalization of the arbitrary practice of 2022) The campaign was generally marked by insufficient information about key decisions; about the possibilities for citizens to participate in the formation of bodies responsible for organizing elections; about the possibility and details of

³³ See National Human Rights Index, Right to freedom of expression. Expert commentary, 2023

³⁴ <https://baj.media/ru/content/ekstremistskiy-status-yuristy-bazh-obratilis-v-specialnye-procedury-oon>, <https://spring96.org/ru/news/112560>

³⁵ See National Human Rights Index, The Right to Freedom of Expression: Comments from Experts, 2023: <https://index.belhelcom.org/>

³⁶ <https://reform.by/305414-avtora-materialov-o-narushenii-prav-cheloveka-v-belarusi-budut-sudit-za-diskreditaciju>, <https://spring96.org/ru/news/108508>, <https://prisoners.spring96.org/ru/person/aljaksandr-mancevicz>.

³⁷ See reports on each of the stages on the Human Rights Defenders for Free Elections campaign website: <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/reports>

³⁸ The campaign "Human Rights Defenders for Free Elections" uses the term "elections*" in relation to the election campaign - 2024 with an asterisk - "to emphasize its conditional nature, since any free and fair election campaign presupposes, first of all, conditions when rights and freedoms are fully realized, including freedom of speech, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, the right to participate in the governance of one's state, freedom from discrimination, which is practically absent in Belarus at present": <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/113484>

³⁹ <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/113484>

⁴⁰ <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/113675> , <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/114162>



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nominating candidates by collecting signatures⁴¹.

Experts emphasize that the elections* generally took place in the context of continuing systemic restrictions on freedom of expression, freedom of association and assembly, including the total absence of an opposition agenda in the public sphere (with misinformation spread by the state media⁴²) and the possibility for open, safe discussion of political programs that differ from the pro-government course, and the persistence of an atmosphere of fear. Significant adjustments to the EC have not resolved long-noted problems, including⁴³:

- protecting voters from pressure and coercion and the opportunity to freely form their own opinions throughout the campaign (including access to a wide range of political programs and full, reliable information about candidates),

- ensuring a genuinely secret ballot and transparent vote count (a problem, in contrast, exacerbated by the legal prohibition on photographing ballots, the lack of independent observers - both domestic and international⁴⁴ - and harassment of those who have observed previous campaigns⁴⁵).

The 2023 amendments to the EC and the legislation on public associations and political parties narrowed the range of subjects who can take part in the election campaign in different roles⁴⁶, enshrined unjustified restrictions on active and passive suffrage:

- *the right to be elected* to the presidency and deputies is now denied to citizens of Belarus who also have citizenship of another state or another foreign document "granting the right to benefits and advantages" (there are reasons to believe that this may include a foreign residence permit⁴⁷). Candidates for deputies to the House of Representatives may not be citizens who have a court conviction that has entered into legal force. Candidates for deputies to local councils may not be citizens who have an unexpunged or unexpunged criminal record;

- *the right to elect and be elected* are de facto taken from the citizens who left the country because of persecution for political reasons, and those who simply live abroad and cannot come to Belarus: *ad hoc* practice of 2022 (when polling stations abroad were not opened) was legislatively enacted in 2023⁴⁸, which unreasonably deprived from 200 to 500 thousand Belarusians of the possibility to realize their

⁴¹ <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/113675> , <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/114162> , <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/114271>

⁴²

https://news.zerkalo.io/economics/60561.html?_gl=1*fnloej*_ga*MTAwNzOwNzk5Ny4xNjc5OTI0MDQy*_ga_B8LJ3JOEWY*MTcwNzM5MzQ1MC4zMzY4xLjE3MDczOTM0NjAuNTAuMC4w ,

⁴³ <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/113484>

⁴⁴ <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/114355>

⁴⁵ <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/113566>

⁴⁶ Id.

⁴⁷ https://t.me/belta_telegramm/164740

⁴⁸ <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/113484>



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electoral rights⁴⁹ (according to different estimates) (if we take into account only those who left the country after 2020);

- the purging of the field of public associations that have the right to nominate their candidates for members of election commissions of various levels and observers has further worsened the conditions for transparency of elections and representation of various public forces in commissions⁵⁰.

Analysis of the available data on nomination and registration of candidates⁵¹, according to experts, indicates a high degree of administrative control, up to preliminary approval of lists of nominated candidates.

Restrictions on campaign expenditures were excessive (e.g., the limits of possible expenditures are relatively small for a normal election campaign). Innovations in the EC significantly expanded the prohibition of "foreign funding" to include funding from Belarusian citizens permanently residing abroad.⁵²

The amendments and additions to the EC as a whole do not take into account the key recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR⁵³, national and international observers⁵⁴, but, on the contrary, lay the legal foundation for the practical impossibility of conducting election campaigns in accordance with Belarus' OSCE commitments and other international standards.

- **Access to public service**

Experts note the continued politicization of the civil service. In 2023, individuals deemed by the state to be disloyal on various grounds continued to be persecuted; this may ensue from signing in favor of the nomination of an alternative candidate in 2020; critical statements in the past; suspicious photographs; and the possession of a foreign residence permit, Pole card, or other such documents by

⁴⁹ Various estimates of the number of people leaving the country after 2020: <https://pace.coe.int/en/news/8955/belarusians-in-exile-an-overlooked-issue-addressed-by-the-parliamentary-assembly>, <https://www.dw.com/ru/lis-polovina-uehavsih-iz-belarusi-posle-2020-goda-politiceskie/a-66930258>

⁵⁰ <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/114162>, <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/113675>

⁵¹ In particular, the low rejection rate of registration with a significantly lower number of nominated candidates compared to previous campaigns, the prospect of non-alternative elections* in some districts: <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/114271>

⁵² <https://elections2024.spring96.org/ru/news/114159>

⁵³ OSCE/ODIHR recommendations available in the Election Recommendations Database <https://paragraph25.odhr.pl/search?dayOfElection=2019-11-17T00%3A00%3A00.000Z&numberOfTheRecommendationInTheFinalReport=1&numberOfTheRecommendationInTheFinalReport=55&projectBeneficiary=Belarus&typeOfElection=Parliamentary&yearOfElection=2019&yearOfElection=2019>

⁵⁴ <https://referendum2022.spring96.org/ru/news/107870>

relatives⁵⁵. The latter, following the trend in 2022⁵⁶ is gradually being legislated as a separate discriminatory ground⁵⁷:

- The Regulation on Service in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Belarus, updated in 2023, makes the presence of such documents an obstacle to admission to service⁵⁸;
- The Regulation on the Procedure for Organizing the Verification of Information on Candidates for Certain Positions of Employees Who Are Not State Civil Positions requires, among other things, to verify the candidate's application to the competent authorities with requests related to going abroad for permanent residence or obtaining a foreign residence permit, a Pole card, or similar documents⁵⁹;
- The updated Regulation on the Diplomatic Service provides for the possibility of refusal of admission to the service if the spouse has such documents. The existence of a residence permit or a Pole card of close relatives, stepsons and stepdaughters of diplomats allows to raise the question of the appropriateness of their employment⁶⁰.

Together with the above-mentioned requirements for candidates for deputies and for the presidency, these provisions do not allow us to speak about the principles of equality and dignity of candidates as the main ones for admission and promotion; loyalty is a more important criterion. In practice, employees of state institutions are subjected to various forms of pressure (up to and including dismissal) in order to force them to give up "privileged" foreign documents. There are known cases of pressure in connection with the application for such documents, as well as their availability or information about the intention to obtain them from the relatives of employees⁶¹.

In the period under review, an additional mechanism of pressure on civil servants was also introduced: the grounds for deprivation of a pension for special merits / award of such a pension were, among others, "disrespectful attitude to state and public institutions, the constitutional order of the Republic of Belarus", as well as bringing to administrative responsibility for offenses "against the order of governance, public order" (grounds actively used for politically motivated persecution⁶²⁶³). In March

⁵⁵ https://news.zerkalo.io/life/60869.html?_gl=1*1dsw3c8*_ga*MTAwNzQwNzk5Ny4xNjc5OTI0MDQy*_ga_B8LJ3JOEWY*MTcwNzgxODkzMi4zNC4xLjE3MDE4MTEwMDEuNjAuMC4w , <https://penbelarus.org/2023/09/08/sfera-kultury-belarusi-v-2022-2023-godah-repressii-tendenczii.html>

⁵⁶ In particular, see the constitutional amendments using this ground (Art. 80); the Law "On the Status of the Deputy of the House of Representatives, Member of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus", which provides for the possibility of early termination of the MP's powers in case of a foreign residence permit or other "document granting the right to benefits and advantages due to diplomatic, religious views or national affiliation".

⁵⁷ <https://trends.belhelcom.org/storage/reviews/February2024/gc1h07866DDq8G3X17sq.pdf> , P. 25.

⁵⁸ <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=P32300271>

⁵⁹ <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=C22300612>

⁶⁰ <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=3871&p0=P30800276>

⁶¹ <https://trends.belhelcom.org/storage/reviews/February2024/gc1h07866DDq8G3X17sq.pdf> , P. 7-8.

⁶² https://spring96.org/files/reviews/ru/review_2023_ru.pdf

⁶³ <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=C22300865>



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2023, amendments to the Criminal Code came into force, providing for the sanction of the death penalty for committing treason against the state, including for state servants⁶⁴. In 2022, Belarus had 12 political prisoners convicted under this article, by the end of 2023 - 39; according to human rights defenders, this article is becoming a common tool of repression⁶⁵.

⁶⁴ <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=H12300256>

⁶⁵ <https://spring96.org/be/news/114288>



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