

ISSUE #12

DECEMBER 29, 2020

CULTURAL RESISTANCE IN BELARUS



BELARUSIAN CULTURE SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION
BELARUSIAN PEN CENTRE

З КАРЯДАМІ
І НОВАГО ШЧУДОН!



Art Credit: Katsiaryna Plikirenia

PEN BELARUS WISHES YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAVE GOOD HEALTH, STRONG NERVES AND FAITH IN THE VICTORY OF LOVE! HAPPINESS, JOY AND LIGHT TO YOU!

**1. ARRESTS AND
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SOLIDARITY**

STAND WITH BELARUSIAN ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY

DONATE TO

THE **BELARUSIAN CULTURE SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION**

& **SAVE OUR SONGS CAMPAIGN**

SUPPORTED BY PEN BELARUS

1. ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS



After an appeal, on December 21, the higher-instance court overturned the decision of the Kastychnicki District Court of Minsk of December 7, according to which musician and poet **Uładź Lankievič** was sentenced to **15** days in jail. By that day, Uładź had served the whole term.



Kastuś Lisiecki, the editor of the *Rodnaje Słova* literary magazine, bass guitarist of the band Recha, was fined **20** basic units [€175] for a flag in the window, a teacher of the 68th school in Minsk complained about it to the police.



Jahor Šumski, photographer and designer, was detained near his home in Minsk on December 20, was sentenced to **13** days of administrative arrest.



Aleś Maŭčanaŭ, an actor, was detained late of December 27 in Minsk as he was holding a white-red-white flag in a one-man picket. On December 28 he was sentenced to **11** days of administrative arrest.



Andrej Prystaŭka, a resident of Brest, has been detained for the seventh time. On December 28, a court sentenced Andrej to **15** days in jail and ordered the destruction of the flag with the *Pahonia* emblem confiscated from the detainee.



Uładzimir Jahoŭdzik, a children's writer, was detained on December 27 while heading to the river to feed birds. The writer spent the night in the Cantralny District Department of Internal Affairs and the following day was fined **30** basic units [€257].

2. PRESSURE, DISMISSAL, BAN



Andrej Hałanaŭ



Ilya Silchukoŭ



Rehina Sarkisava

At the end of October, five talented professionals were fired from the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre for daring to speak out against violence in the country before one of their performances. They were conductor **Andrej Hałanaŭ**, soloist **Ilya Silchukoŭ**, concertmaster of the orchestra **Rehina Sarkisava**, musicians of the orchestra **Ała Džyhan** and **Alaksandra Paciomina**.

Most of them left Belarus: Rehina Sarkisava and Andrej Hałanaŭ - to Lithuania, Ała Džyhan - to Switzerland to her daughter, Ilya Silchuk- to the United States. Alaksandra Paciomina remained in Minsk.

REHINA SARKISAVA, A CONCERTMASTER AND FIRST VIOLIN OF THE BOLSHOI THEATER ORCHESTRA, FIRED IN LATE OCTOBER, LEFT FOR VILNIUS. ON DECEMBER 3, SHE RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WHO WANTED HER TO SHOW UP ON THE SUMMONS. REHINA IMMEDIATELY PACKED HER BAGS AND LEFT FOR VILNIUS.

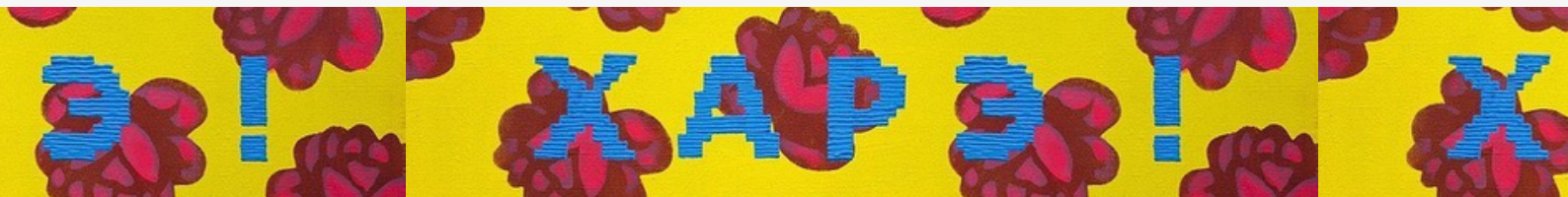


Art Credit: Žana Kapušnikava



IN 48 MINUTES
AFTER THE
OPENING,
THE MICHAŁ SAVICKI
GALLERY IN MINSK
CLOSED THE EXHIBITION
"ENOUGH", AN INTERNATIONAL
PROJECT OF ARTISTS.

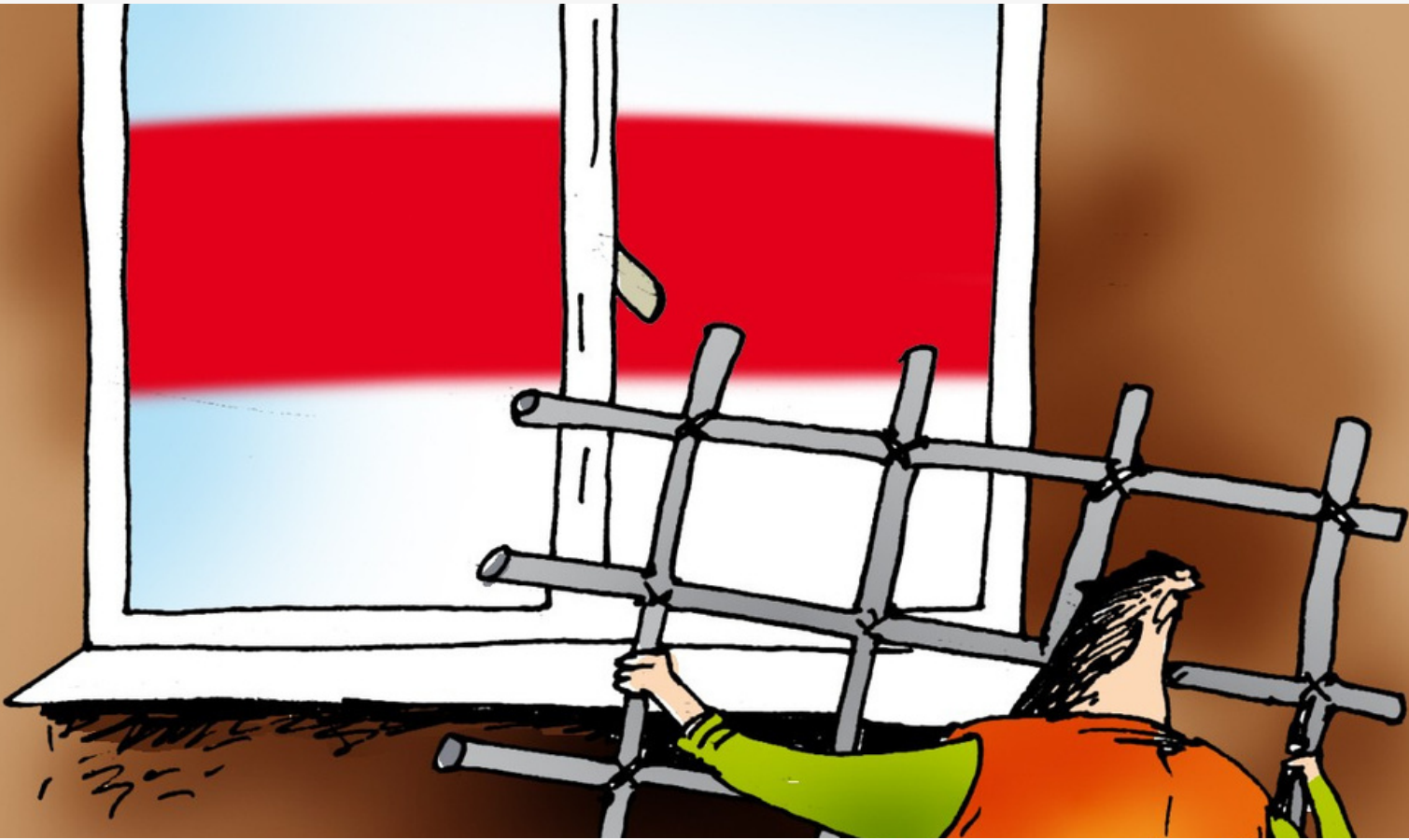
DISSATISFACTION WAS
PROVOKED BY ŽANA
KAPUŠNIKAVA'S BLOCK, SOME
OF HER WORKS REFLECTED
CURRENT EVENTS AND
CONTAINED DIFFERENT
VERSIONS OF THE WORD
"ENOUGH" IN THE BELARUSIAN
LANGUAGE.



Uładzimir Puhač, a musician, member of the Coordination Council, was summoned for an interrogation by the Investigative Committee on 23 December, it lasted for **3.5** hours.



3. REPRESSIONS FOR THE SYMBOLS



Art Credit: Belsat

On December 26, several residents of Sierabranka district in Minsk organized a run in Santa Claus costumes, during which they gave candies to children. They didn't chant any political slogans

and had no flags, but 4 buses of OMON arrived and detained the participants. **Hanna Zahurskaja** received **20** days of arrest, **Volha Sierahłazava** was fined **20** basic units [€175].



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Viktor Stukaŭ, a human rights activist and journalist from Polack, was fined **10** basic units [€90] for a flag on his balcony, after having been kept behind the bars for **72** hours.

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Zmicier Trućko from Biaroza was detained by his apartment and for **72** hours kept in a remand prison for the white-red-white flag on his balcony. The case was sent for revision.

4. CULTURAL RESISTANCE



THE BELARUSIAN CULTURE
SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION AND
CREATIVE PROJECT FREEDOM
BELARUS PRESENTED A
COLLABORATIVE PHOTO PROJECT.



Its heroes are creative people who suffered during the 2020 protest: journalist **Natalla Łubnieŭskaja**, actress **Alena Hiranok**, duo **VAL**, musician and artist **Andruś Takindanh**, musician and teacher **Leanid Paŭlonak**, gymnast and former Cirque du Soleil artist **Siamion Bukin**. Each of them showed what the concept of "FREEDOM" means to them.



Premiere of the animated [video](#) for the song "Freedom", a Belarusian version of the legendary song "Kocham wolność" by the Polish band Chłopcy z Placu Broni, performed by **Zmicier Vajciuškievič**.



An interactive online show **Hodny Dvor** (Worthy Yard) [took place](#) for the third time. It's an online gathering that conveys the atmosphere of the same gatherings of neighbours which have become a new tradition for thousands of Belarusians.



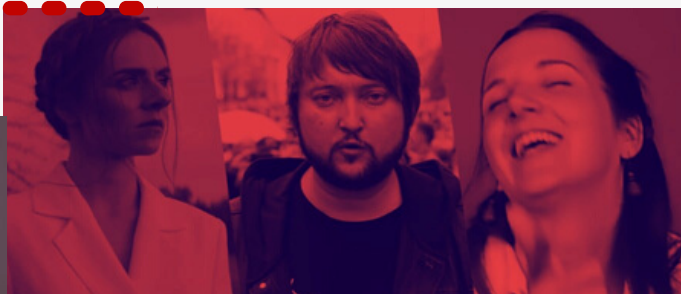
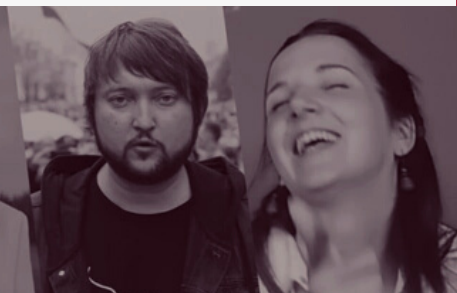
An exhibition of Christmas horses has opened in Hrodna.

Valancina Šoba, an artist and author of the exhibition, says:

“We now have one main horse - Pahonia*. Automatically it turns into a Christmas gingerbread horse. Snow, horses, so beautiful, a Christmas tale ... It is a very special holiday, a holiday of wishes, the horses are also special. I hope that all our wishes will come true.”

*[Pahonia is the historical coat of arms of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, was also the official emblem of the Belarusian Democratic Republic in 1918 and of

the Republic of Belarus from 1991 to 1995. It's now one of the symbols of resistance along with a white-red-white flag.]



Top 20 of the Belarusian musical videos of 2020.



Volha Šparaha, philosopher, lecturer at ECLAB, member of the Belarusian PEN Center and the Coordination Council, held an online lecture-talk "Results of Belarus 2020: women find new strength" on women's protests and prospects for the development of the women's movement in Belarus.



A VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF FLAGS OF NEIGHBOURHOODS, DISTRICTS, CITIES AND TOWNS, REGIONS AND DIASPORAS HAS OPENED.



UŁADZIMIR CEŚLER'S NEW PIECE "JUDGEMENT DAY"

5. VOICES OF BELARUSIAN CULTURE



SVIATŁANA ANIKIEJ, AN ACTRESS OF THE KUPALA THEATER, WHO LEFT THE THEATER IN PROTEST ALONG WITH THE OTHERS, THE BEST ACTRESS ACCORDING TO THE 15TH ALL-POLISH FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY DRAMA, WHO TEMPORARILY LEFT BELARUS FOR POLAND.

“WHEN SHOPPING, I’D ONLY BUY THE MOST BASIC THINGS, ONLY WHAT DOESN’T FEED THE AUTHORITIES. IT WAS VERY STERN. WE ALL HAVE OUR WAYS OF RESISTING THIS SYSTEM, REGIME. EVERY DAY IT BECOMES LIKE A MONASTERY OF SOME KIND. IT’S COMPLETE ASCETICISM IN LIFE, BUT PEOPLE ARE READY TO ENDURE WHATEVER IF IT HELPS TO END THESE TERRIBLE TIMES, THESE MURDERS, THIS HORROR.”



VALŽYNA MORT, A POET FROM MINSK WHO LIVES IN ITHACA, NEW YORK, WHERE SHE TEACHES AT THE PRESTIGIOUS CORNELL UNIVERSITY.



Valžyna's poetry collection "Music for the Dead and Resurrected" published this year, named one of the Best Poetry Books of 2020 by The New York Times.



"WE SEE HOW EVERYONE IS WORKING NOW TO REMEMBER, BECAUSE MEMORY IS ACTION. NO WONDER PEOPLE GET HARSH SENTENCES FOR WRITING WORDS ON THE PAVEMENT: WE WILL REMEMBER, WE WILL NOT FORGET. TO REMEMBER, YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO NOTICE, YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO NOTICE SMALL DETAILS, NOTICE THESE INSCRIPTIONS ON THE WALLS, NOTICE EACH OTHER, KNOW EACH OTHER. WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IS JUST INCREDIBLE. THIS IS REAL POETRY EMBODIED IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY. THIS IS ART. THIS IS WHAT ART DOES - NOTICES AND REMEMBERS. AND NOW OUR WHOLE COUNTRY IS DOING IT."

6. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY



AN EXHIBITION "**ŻYVIE BELARUŚ**" HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE ŚREM MUSEUM AND THE POZNAŃ BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS:

Aleks Nowitski, Ales Pushkin, Anton Snt, Ksenia Vysotskaya, Mark Maksimovich, Sergey Shabohin, Vitaly Degtyarev, Wladimir Metelski and Włodzimierz Bludnik participated in it. Some of them have been living in Poland for years, others in Belarus.

osteuropa



Spotlights on contemporary Belarusian poetry published in a German volume of texts *Macht statt Gewalt oder: Gewalt statt Macht* (Belarus: Schritte zur Freiheit oder: Repression, Schikane, Terror).



Macht statt Gewalt
Belarus: Schritte zur Freiheit



'Kupalinka' from Three Belarusian Folk Songs performed by Royal Scottish National Orchestra Principal Cello **Aliaksej Kisialou** and composed by RSNO Principal Horn Christopher Gough.



A solo concert of Belarusian opera singer **Marharyta Laŭčuk** with accompaniment of a Lithuanian pianist **Justas Chaponis** took place on December 27 at the Radziwill Palace in Nieborów, Poland, at the initiative of **Maciej Radziwill**.



The premiere of the play "**Breathing Together**" – testimonies of participants of the events after August 9 in Belarus, took place on December 21 at the Russian Drama Theater in Lithuania.



Velida Kent, a teacher and artist who's been creating gingerbread houses since 2008, has created a gingerbread composition showing the Minsk Red Church Cathedral, "Long Live Belarus" slogan and a group of protestors.

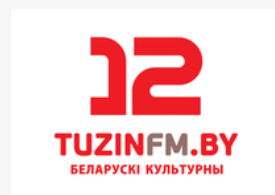
THIS NEWSLETTER WAS PREPARED IN COOPERATION BY

BELARUSIAN CULTURE
SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION

&
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