

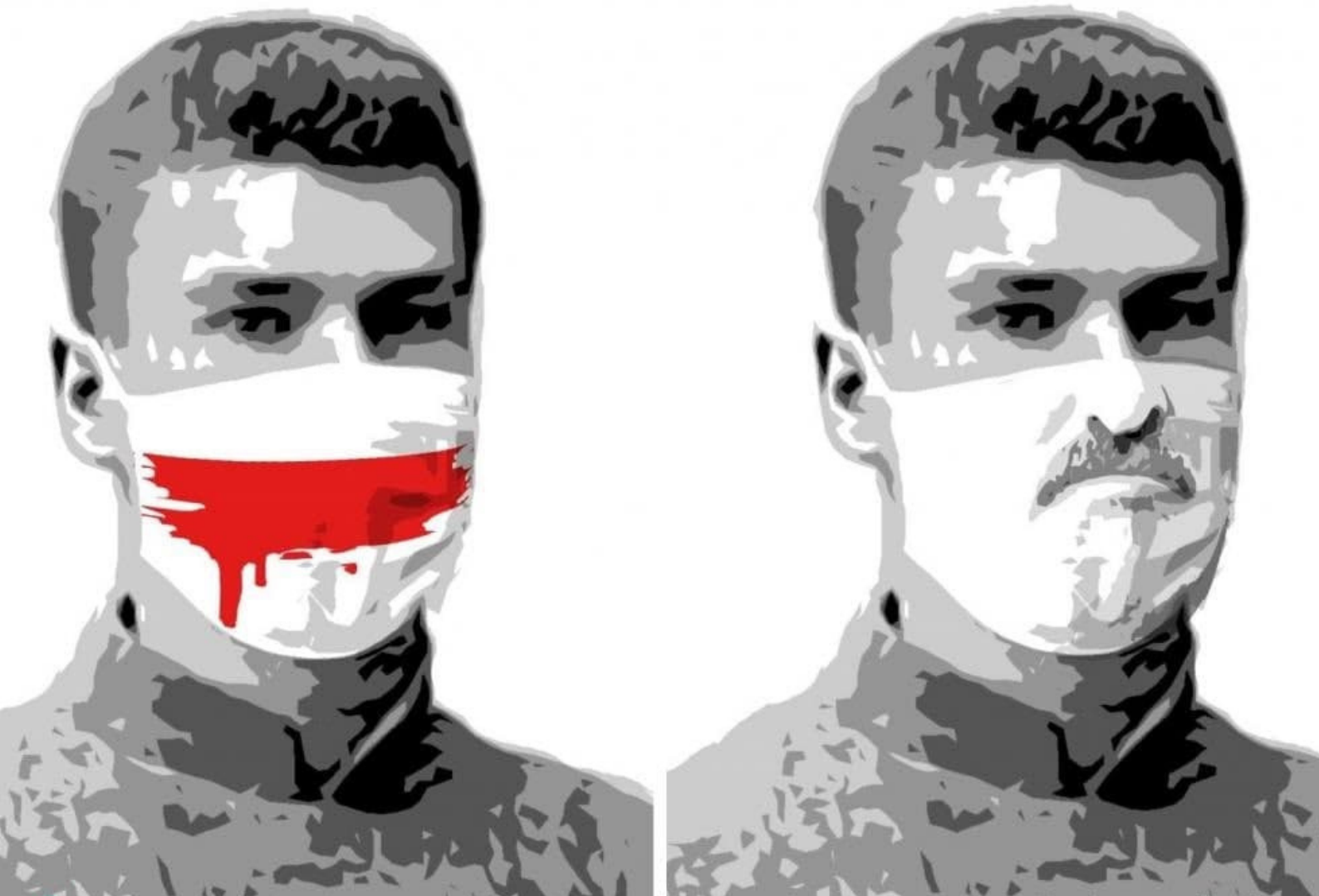
ISSUE #9

DECEMBER 8, 2020

CULTURAL RESISTANCE IN BELARUS



BELARUSIAN CULTURE SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION
BELARUSIAN PEN CENTRE



Art Credit: Euroradio

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STAND WITH BELARUSIAN ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY

DONATE TO

THE **BELARUSIAN CULTURE SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION**

& **SAVE OUR SONGS CAMPAIGN**

SUPPORTED BY PEN BELARUS

1. ARRESTS



Фота: Euroradio

Aliaksej Sančuk, a drummer from the band "Trebujem Razojtis", detained on November 4 at a rehearsal spot together with the drummers who used to set the rhythm at the Minsk protest marches, wasn't released after 15 days of administrative arrest. A criminal case has been instituted against him under Part 1 of Article 342 of the Criminal Code of Belarus. The security officials believe that he was the administrator of a chat for several people and "organized actions aimed at gross violation of public order."

Mikoła Papieka, a poet and beekeeper from Pružany, was detained on December 1 and kept in the detention centre for **72** hours, accused of participating in the "karahod" on the streets of Brest, which protesters arranged on September 13. He's been accused under Art. 342 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (organization of group actions, grossly violating public order and involving obvious disobedience to the legitimate demands of the authorities; punished with a fine, or arrest, or restriction of liberty for a term of up to three years, or imprisonment for the same term). He pleaded not guilty and demanded all the documents of his case to be translated into Belarusian. For the interrogation, a translator into Belarusian was invited as no officer spoke Belarusian.



Photo Credit: Radio Racyja



Yaŭhen Atcecki, detained on Sunday, November 17, during the march in memory of Raman Bandarenka, was fined **20** basic units (**175** Euro) on December 1.

Zmicier Vajnoŭski, an advertising expert, photographer, public figure, and partner of PEN Belarus, was detained on November 30, and on December 1 sentenced to **13** days of administrative arrest..



Uładzimir Miraniuk, a musician and head of the Chata44 recording studio from Brest, was detained on November 25, and since then has been kept in the remand prison.

Dzianis Filipenka, vocalist of the band Rahis, was sentenced to **13** days in jail but he is waiting to serve the term, as there are no places.

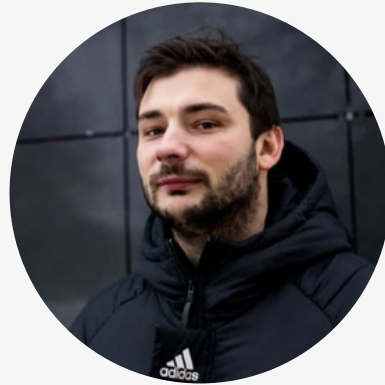


DETAINED ON DECEMBER 6:



Uladzimir Liankievič, a poet, musician, member of PEN Belarus, received **15** days of administrative arrest. He was detained back in September and spent **6** days in jail.

Aliaksej Saprykin, an actor at Belarus Free Theatre, activist, partner of Belarus PEN Center (for two years in a row he was the host at the ceremonies of Carlos Sherman Award for the best literary book translation into Belarusian)



Valeryja Hrabliuk, a violinist, received **13** days of administrative arrest.



Siarhej Smirnoŭ, leader of the Cross B Band, was sentenced to **10** days of administrative arrest.



Mikita Kužmin, percussionist of the band Botanic Project, was sentenced to **10** days.

2. PRESSURE AND DISMISSAL

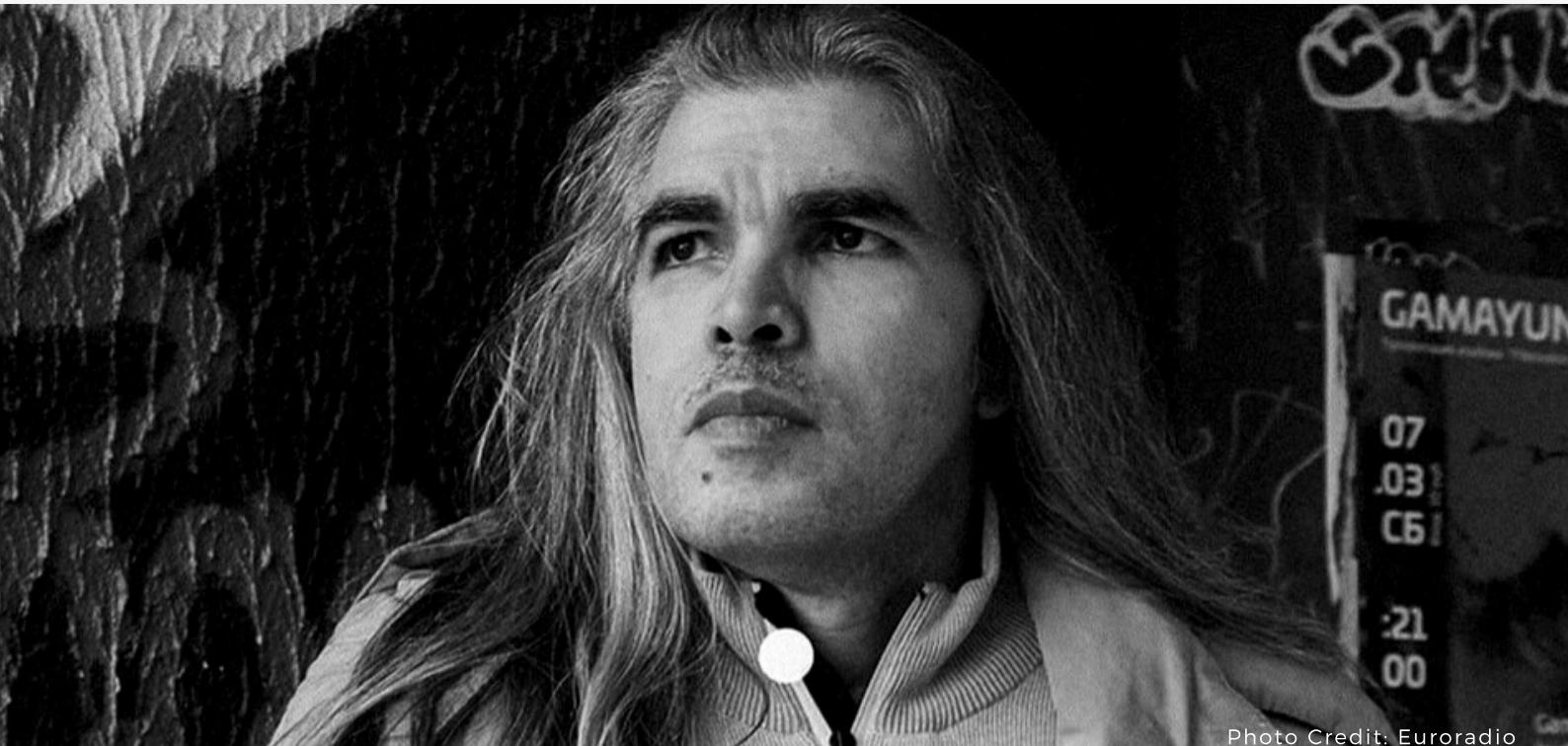
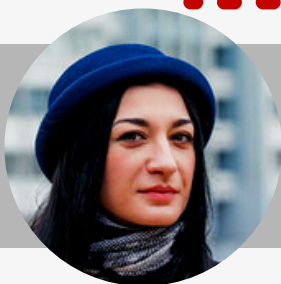


Photo Credit: Euroradio

ROBERTO VALDES CASANUEVO IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER FROM CUBA WHO HAS LIVED IN BELARUS FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS, HAVING A FAMILY AND THREE CHILDREN HERE.

He was detained during the peaceful march on November 8, and is currently in the process of deportation because his residence permit was not extended due to his active civil position. Roberto is a former member of the Union of Designers, and the union sent a petition and reference in his support.



Belarus Free Theatre actress **Julia Šaŭčuk** received a message from the police of Kobryn (a town in the west of Belarus), asking her to “call back urgently”.



Julia Savič, who worked at the Academy of Arts for twenty years, has her contract not extended. Her colleagues believe that this happened solely through her civil position.



JULIA ČARNIAŪSKAJA, A WELL-KNOWN CULTUROLOGIST, PROFESSOR, WRITER, AND JOURNALIST, MEMBER OF THE COORDINATION COUNCIL, RESIGNED FROM BELARUSIAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE AND ARTS.

“I stayed for a long time, but the degree of the necessary compromises between the profession and the obligation is growing every day. There are people who can handle this for a variety of purposes: vocation or soft-job; career advancement or, conversely, a comfortable rest of time before retiring; for the sake of “stability” or for the sake of an ideal – to do at least something good from within by educating students. There are other aspirations of all kinds. But it’s not my place anymore... ”



The ethno-shop **Cudoŭnnia** in Hrodna had their lease agreement with terminated on December 4. The police came to the store the day before to check what a white-red-white flag was doing at the entrance.

Cudoŭnnia is an important cultural platform of the city, where one could buy products of Belarusian masters, books and souvenirs.

3. CULTURAL RESISTANCE

ZLO

BELARUSIAN BAND
INTELLIGENCY CREATED AN
ACOUSTIC LIVE TO THE SON ZLO
(EVIL) TOGETHER WITH THE
FREE **KUPALAU** (THE

COLLECTIVE OF JANKA KUPALA
THEATRE, ABOUT 60 PERSONS,
WHO QUIT AS A PROTEST BACK
IN AUGUST).



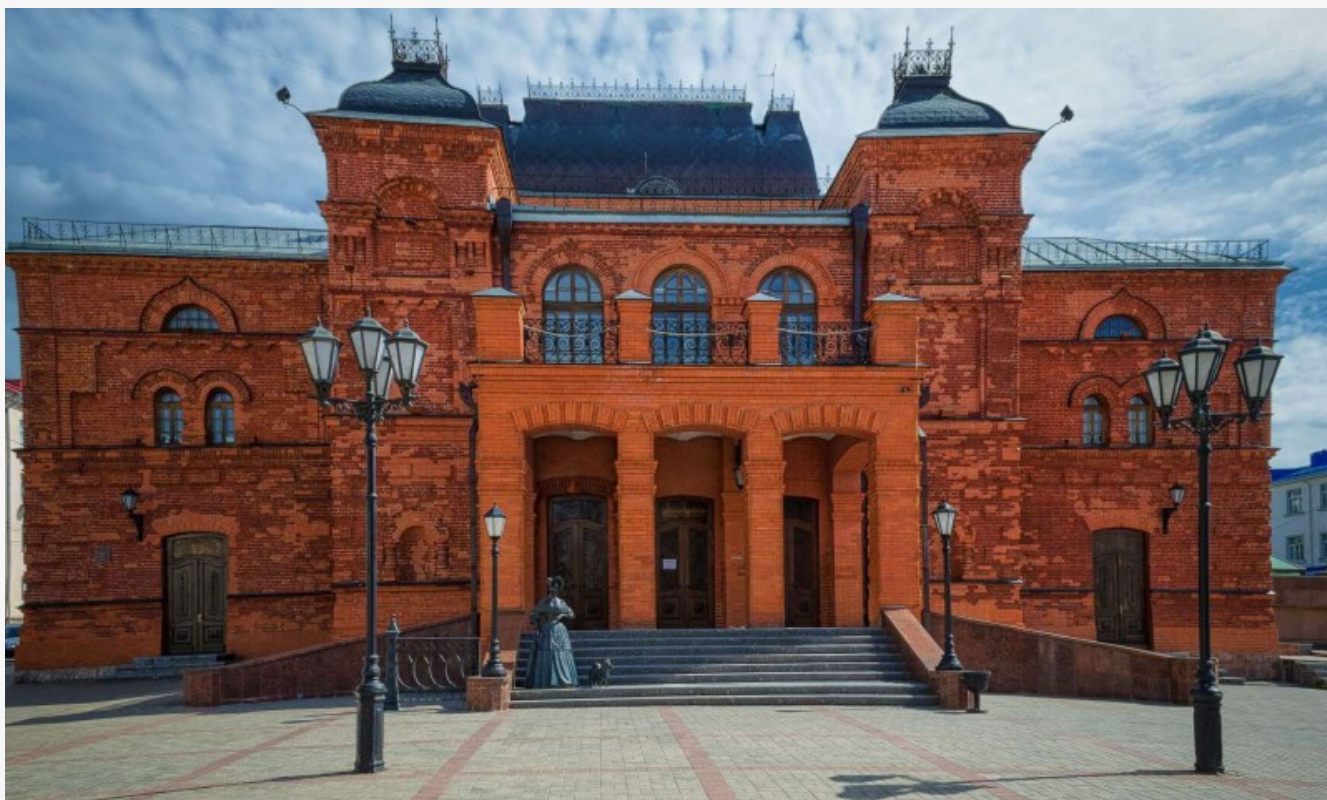
An online gig, of **Ryhor Lajkoŭ**, leader of the band PyLai, who was detained and beaten badly on November 15.



Mahileŭ-based project **MNOY** presented a video to the single "Верталёт" (Helicopter) – about the tortures and hopes of the Belarusian people.

The people looking to the sky with sorrow, waiting for when the helicopter crashes...

Photo Credit: Youtube



**THE EMPLOYEES OF MAHILEŬ
DRAMA THEATRE CREATED A
VIDEO LETTER TO THEIR EX-
DIRECTOR **ANDREJ NOVIKAŬ**
FIRED LAST WEEK.**



**“YOU CAN LAY OFF A PERSON, BUT
HIS WORK, IF IT IS REALLY GOOD
AND NEEDED, WILL LIVE. AND WE
PROMISE: WE WILL SAVE OUR
THEATER, WHICH IS OUR HOME,
AND WILL WAIT FOR YOUR
RETURN!”**



Belarusian female poets held an online poetry march on December 5, a Saturday when women's marches used to take place before it became too dangerous as dozens women were detained and sent to jail, sometimes rather brutally.



See [the link](#) to view the recording with ***Kryscina Banduryna, Darja Bialkevič, Hanna Komar, Nasta Kudasova, Valzhyna Mort, and Julia Čimafejeva*** sharing their poems.





On December 5, the Belarusian Cultural Solidarity Foundation organized an online screening of the play "From the Life of Fossils" in support of the staff of the **New Drama Theater** whose troupe joined the nationwide strike, for which the theater administration filed a lawsuit

that declared the strike illegal. As a result, **11 actors** and **3 employees** quit, two of them - under pressure from the administration of the theater. According to the order from above, other state theaters aren't allowed to hire these actors.



YOU CAN MAKE A DONATION TO SUPPORT THE LAID OFF EMPLOYEES FOR ANY AMOUNT [HERE](#). SEE [THE LINK](#) TO WATCH THE PLAY.




Laudans band, whose participants **Andrej Luhin** and **Alena Palačanskaja** were arrested on October 19, after having performed in a Minsk neighbourhood, and sentenced to **15** days of administrative arrest, wrote a song and [created a video](#) featuring sketches by an artist [@na_yawu](#) to support all those who've gone through this experience.

5. VOICES OF BELARUSIAN CULTURE



ALENA HIRONAK, A THEATER AND FILM ACTRESS WHO WAS DETAINED ON NOVEMBER 29 DURING THE "NEIGHBORS' MARCH" AND FINED 264 EURO ON DECEMBER 1, SPENT TWO DAYS IN AKRESTSINA PRISON. ALENA TOLD ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE. IN THE BUS THE SECURITY OFFICERS "REALLY WANTED TO TALK", BUT IN PART IT WAS A ONE-WAY CONVERSATION.



"THEY CONSIDER US TRAITORS, THEY SAY THAT WE ALL WANT TO IMMIGRATE TO POLAND, AND SOMETIMES PEOPLE AT THE PROTESTS APPROACH THEM AND ASK TO BE DETAINED, BECAUSE THEY NEED TWO MORE DETENTION CASES TO IMMIGRATE TO POLAND. OF COURSE, OUR DISPUTE WAS NOT THAT OF EQUALS, BUT I TOLD THEM THAT IT'S THEM WHO ARE THE TRAITORS."

5. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY



Photo Credit: Belsat

AN EXHIBITION OF JOURNALISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY AND POSTERS INSPIRED BY THE EVENTS OF RECENT MONTHS IN BELARUS, "BELARUS 2020. TRAUMA AND LAUGHTER", OPENED AT

THE ROZDROŻA GALLERY IN LUBLIN ON DECEMBER 1. PHOTOS AND POSTERS OF BELARUSIAN ARTISTS CAN ALSO BE VIEWED AT WWW.ROZDROZA.COM.



Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation has included materials from Chrysalis Mag in its web catalogue. Among the materials in the archive are "[Art Archive | August 2020](#)" and a selection of "[Nina Bahinskaya in the works of Belarusian \(and not only\) artists](#)".

Slovene Writers' Association has expressed support for the Belarusian people.
"We support and admire everyone using peaceful protests to oppose election fraud, repression and violence, and all who demand a fair and free election, respect of people's rights and rule of law."



Euronews has collected stories of several well-known Belarusian musicians who have been arrested in recent weeks as the government tries to shut down protests in neighbourhoods where musicians play a crucial role in uniting people through song.

“These gatherings can be very intimate, with home-cooked food and drinks. Bands set up equipment and play music both for children and for adults - with a mix of old and new songs. Some lay flowers to remember the dead. Others provide activities for children. Some just walk together in protest around their neighbourhood with red and white flags and banners emblazoned with different slogans. Music, songs and storytelling are cohesive for societies and communities, and this is perhaps why events like these have caught the attention of the security authorities. Euronews caught up with two of the musicians helping make this happen.”



A cool **art object** about the violence committed by Belarusian security forces has appeared in Białystok. A man in a uniform points a gun at passers-by walking down the street.



The book **Belarus! Das weibliche Gesicht der Revolution**, which has just been published by edition.fotoTAPETA, unites different voices of protest. Online presentations take place on December 5, 6, 9.



SVETLANA ALEXIEVICH, THE NOBEL LAUREATE AND PRESIDENT OF PEN BELARUS, SPOKE AT THE UN COUNCIL IN GENEVA, WHERE THE INTERIM REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN BELARUS TOOK PLACE.



“Belarusian society understands that the process of overcoming the socio-political crisis is long and complex, and that dialogue is needed. But it requires humanization of the situation in the country.

The society is ready for dialogue, but it is impossible in a situation where the authorities are holding political prisoners hostage and continue to kill, torture and persecute dissidents. Our society is ready for a new country: a country that respects opinions, shares responsibility, a country where there is no violence, that respects law and justice.

Is the government ready for a dialogue on these simple and important issues?”

An online magazine PEN/Opp run by PEN Sweden have published a Belarus-themed issue which has an [interview](#) with **Svetlana Alexievich** and [protest poems](#) by **Dzmitry Strocak** in English and Swedish.



Art Credit: penopp.org

6. AUCTION



THE FIRST GUITAR OF THE SINGER AND BLOGGER **LERA JASKEVIČ**.

PLACE A BID!

THIS IS LERA'S FIRST INSTRUMENT WHICH SHE USED TO RECORD HER FIRST SONGS AND PLAYED AT HER FIRST CONCERTS. THE PROCEEDS WILL BE DIRECTED TO SUPPORT BELARUSIAN CULTURAL FIGURES WHO HAVE SUFFERED FOR THEIR CIVIL POSITION.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

POLICE DETAIN PEOPLE FOR HAVING WHITE-RED-WHITE FLAGS IN THEIR WINDOWS, TAKING THEM RIGHT FROM THEIR HOMES.



Photo Credit: Novy Chas



Photo Credit: Novy Chas



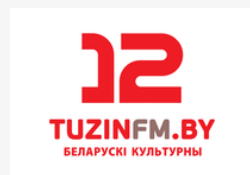
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BELARUSIAN CULTURE
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&
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