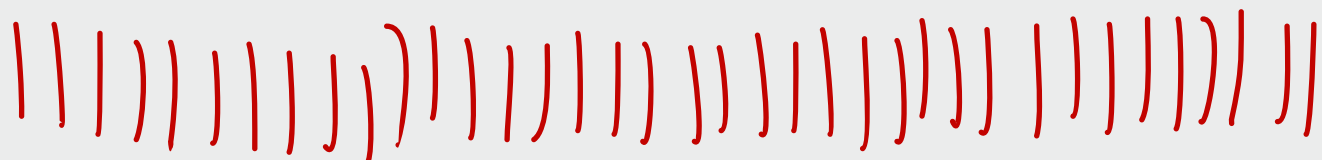
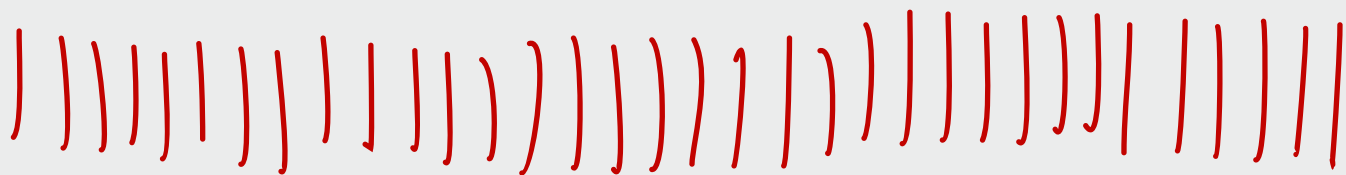


# Cultural Resistance in Belarus



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*"What we are doing today, will be the future for those who will want to discover a real Belarus."*

**Siarhiej Budkin**

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# 1. PERSECUTION, CONVICTIONS, CULTURAL POLICY

**Andrej Kołas**, a historian from Vaŭkavysk and a teacher of "Mova Nanova" courses, left Belarus after having served 10 days in prison. Seven security officers with shields and weapons broke into Anderj's house on September 27, formally to check his hunting weapons.



**Ina Dranica** was sentenced to 30 days of administrative arrest for a white-red-white flag, which the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption representatives, who came to Ina with a search, hung in the window themselves and photographed for the report.



**Vadzim Jermašuk**, a blogger from Hrodna, received another 20 days of administrative arrest for "extremism", despite the fact that he is already a suspect under two criminal cases.



**Artur Žviryoŭski** was sentenced to three years in prison for hanging a white-red-white flag on one of the schools in Astraviec, and also painted white-red-white stripes on a the stone, in addition to tearing a red-green flag from the building of one from the state institutions of the district center.



**Uładzistaŭ Fiodaraŭ** was arrested for 15 days: when his things were checked before a hockey match, they found a passport cover with Pahonia on it.



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## 2. LIFE OF THE IMPRISONED PEOPLE

**Alaksandr Vasilevič**, co-owner of the Vondel / Hepta advertising agency, co-founder of Kyky and The Village Belarus, as well as Gallery Ź, has been under arrest in the pre-trial prison for more than 400 days. Until now, neither his family nor Alaksandr himself know the exact charges he's facing.



**Natalla Chierše** told about conditions in the Mahiloŭ prison. She is kept alone in a cell intended for six. "They gave me good linen, a good blanket, but it was cool in the cell. The food here is similar to the food in the colony, and, very importantly, there are beautiful yards for walks." When Natallia brought her things in the cell, she noticed that some of them

were missing: the diary she kept in the previous prisons, the portraits she had painted in the colony, notebooks where she copied thoughts from the books she read, postcards sent to her from Germany, magazines, and blank A4 sheets.

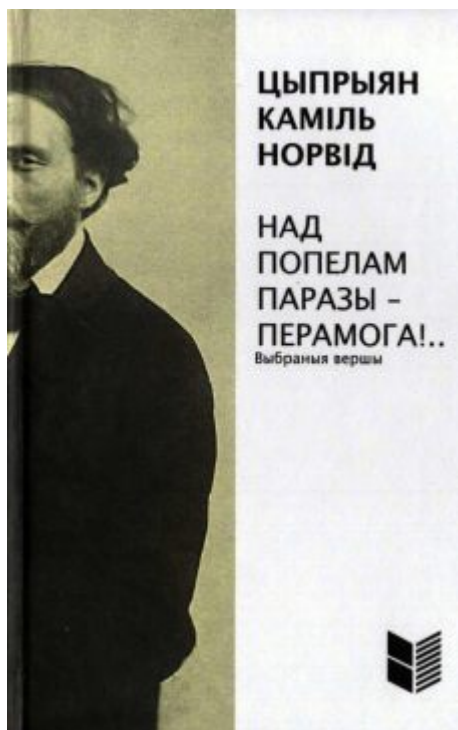


**Zmicier Kazloŭ**, better known as the blogger Šery Kot, sentenced to five years in a penal colony for allegedly "organizing mass riots" (Part 2, Article 293 of the Criminal Code), sent a letter in which he wrote that he has absolutely no one who could support him: «... I have no close relatives, no one can help me, not financially, no calls, no meetings, and I am completely without support now."

**Maria Kalesnikava** generates cool ideas even behind bars. At the place of the pre-trial detention centre in Minsk, she wants to make a cultural hub and a museum of victims of repressions.



### 3. DISSENT AND CULTURAL ACTIVISM



The book of **Cyprian Kamil Norwid's** translations into Belarusian "Over The Ashes Of Defeat There Is A Victory!.." was presented online.



The round table on one of the key philosophical essays in Belarusian thinking of the 20th century "The Eternal Way" by **Ihnat Abdzirałovič** (Ihnat Kančėŭski) and modern challenges to the Belarusian worldview took place at the Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences.



The second episode of the **NowProst** project is a series of conversations between Kupalaŭcy. The guest is actor **Michaś Zuj**.

**Schools in Hrodna** can be named after famous Belarusians. Historians find the initiative both interesting and controversial.



**Alaksandra Chamianok-Fiedčanka** has published an audiobook of her inclusive fairy tales "Italian Journey". This and other Belarusian books can be listened to through the Book Cart app.

**Valer Napiejeŭ** has published a children's book «Little Ženia — The Queen Of Mice: Stories From The Life Of A Belarusian Girl»; the artist is **Eleanora Lachnovič**.



The gallery-page of [tuzin.fm.by](http://tuzin.fm.by) has been launched — the portal that has given life to dozens of worthy projects of music and history, cinema, art, literature and celebrates its 18th anniversary this month.

**Anatol Brusievič**, a Hrodna-based poet, literary critic and teacher, has published a new collection of poems titled “Wings. Verses And Poems”.



**Jury Žyhamont**, a Belarusian TV host well-known for his educational journeys to small towns and villages, has published a book "Towns and Villages of Belarus".

The "**Belarusian House**" opened in Vilnius. It will host cultural events and a Sunday school of the Belarusian language. There are also Belarusians who have lived in Vilnius for a long time, and those who were forced to leave their homeland because of political repressions. A Belarusian museum will appear here in the future.





A doll by **Hanna Zabrocka**,  
dedicated  
to the performance of  
**Jana Šostak**.



**Valer Viščenia**, a political prisoner  
sentenced to three years of open air  
prison in Viciebsk, sends his drawings in  
response to letters of solidarity.

**Mother's Day**, on which many  
Belarusian children couldn't  
be with their mothers.  
By **karikatu.rama**



@karikatu.rama

Winners of the **Ciotka Award** for the best children's book in Belarusian in two nominations have been announced.



PEN Belarus continues its programme "Creative cuisine", this week's speaker was **Jeva Viežnaviec**, writer, shortlist for Jerzy Giedroyc Literary Award.

The literary and philosophical cafe ZNO, organized by the Belarusian Collegium, started the new season with the program "Disputes About Literature". Hanna Sieviaryniec is the hostess of the cafe.



Topics: metropolis and emigration, "parties" and poets "alone", graphomaniacs and writers, critics and promoters.



The first laboratory for theatre directors "Metamorphoses of Puppet Theater" has started working at the **Brest Puppet Theater.**

An acoustic concert of **Yury Stylsky** took place in Kyiv.

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## 4. VOICES OF BELARUSIAN CULTURE

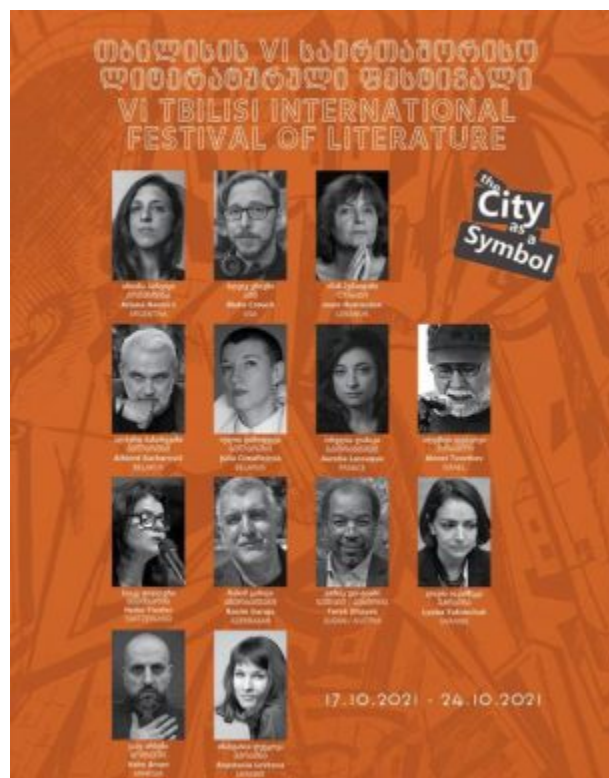


Photo: Julia Baier

**Svetlana Alexievich** shared her thoughts on the situation in Belarus,  
*“They [young people convicted of participating in the protests] are incredibly strong people, and their final words at the trials made me fall in love with my people. The last word in court is now a kind of new literary genre.”*

# 5. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

**Jula Cimafiejeva** and **Alhierd Bacharevič** take part in the International Literary Festival in Tbilisi.



The Warsaw Center for Contemporary Art **Ujazdowski Castle**, which is hosting a large exhibition of political art, has created a petition calling on the authorities to immediately release **Aleś Puškin**, a Belarusian artist and political prisoner.



**Zmicier Vajnoŭski's** project "the REM sleep" about tragic and inspiring events in Belarus — on the streets of Lublin.



An exhibition of **posters dedicated** to Belarusian protests is being held in Germany.

**Andrej Kucila's** film "When Flowers Are Not Silent" won the documentary competition of the Warsaw Film Festival.



At the **Radar Ost Festival** in Berlin, the play "Fainting" based on **Svetlana Alexievich's** novel "Zinc Boys" was shown.



The **German Genshagen Foundation** published a video of a discussion about Belarus and the situation of writers in Belarus with participation of PEN Belarus members **Uładzimir Łobač** and **Maryja Martysievič**.



Project "**Transparent Walls**": photographers from different countries send their photo greetings to Belarusian political prisoners.



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## 6. POLITICAL PRISONERS' BIRTHDAYS



For October 10, 801 persons have been recognized as political prisoners in Belarus, and the number has been increasing steadily. This, of course, shows that repression by the authorities not just hasn't stopped, but is actually gaining strength.

PEN Belarus, as an association of writers, is particularly concerned about the fate of cultural workers who have been unjustly imprisoned.

In October, 4 political prisoners somehow involved in the process of cultural development of our country, will celebrate their birthdays behind bars. They are:

**Andrej Piatroŭski**, a former history and social studies teacher from Smarhoń (October 5);

**Alaksandr Nurdzinaŭ**, artist (October 11);

**Anžalika Borys**, chair of the Union of Poles in Belarus (October 14)

and **Pavieł Maźko**, designer of clothes (October 21).




Letters and postcards (in Belarusian or Russian) can be sent to the following address:

**Andrej Piatroŭski** (Андрэй Пятроўскі): Турма №1. 230023, г. Гродна, вул. Кірава, 1

**Alaksandr Nurdzinaŭ** (Аляксандр Нурдзінаў): ПК №1. 211440, г. Наваполацк, вул. Тэхнічная, 8

**Anžalika Borys** (Анжаліка Борыс): Следчая турма №8. 222163, г. Жодзіна, вул. Савецкая, 22А

**Pavieł Maźko** (Павел Мазько): СІЗА-7. 224030, г. Брэст, вул. Савецкіх памежнікаў, 37

-  [pen-centre.by](http://pen-centre.by)
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-  [info@pen-centre.by](mailto:info@pen-centre.by)
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