

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Belarus**



The Most Resonant Human Rights Violations in Certain Countries of the world

2022

INDEX

Austria	4	Lithuania	25
Belgium	6	Netherlands	27
Bulgaria	8	Norway	29
Canada	9	Poland	30
Czech Republic	10	Romania	34
Estonia	11	Slovakia	36
Finland	12	Spain	37
France	14	Sweden	39
Germany	16	Switzerland	41
Greece	18	United Kingdom	43
Italy	20	United States of	45
Latvia	22	America	

List of Acronyms of International Human Rights Instruments

ICCPR – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICESCR – International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

CRC – Convention on the Rights of Child

ICERD – International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

CAT – Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

FOREWORD

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus continues with its practice of reports on the situation of human rights in certain Western states. This practice has already become established and sustained insofar as it has been driven by high demand for relevant information both domestically and internationally. This report has been drafted on the basis of the information furnished by diverse international, regional and national NGOs, while featuring also relevant information that has been available in the media.

According to the pattern established in previous reports, the current one does not claim to be a comprehensive study with a deep scientific insight into events and developments that occur in other countries. The report's strength lies, rather, in the reflection of facts, open data and visual materials that are present in the public domain.

The core point permeating the entire report demonstrates that the Western society is facing a severe problem when it comes to upholding human rights. The problem has been further compounded by social contradictions stemming from a popular discontent with the ongoing policies of "pandemic" restrictions and a sharp decline in living standards. It is noteworthy that the report puts in the spotlight precisely those countries that go to great lengths to impose their blueprint of democracy and human rights-related practices on the rest of the world.

The report allows to outline some contours of an internal crisis deeply ingrained in Western states, namely, the political elite's complete isolation from its society's real needs. In their pursuit of omnipotence beyond their own borders, in their attempt to mentor other states, the West's political establishment has actually sidelined its own citizens. Systemic discrimination in society, crackdowns on peaceful protests on almost a daily basis, violations of refugees' and migrants' rights, tampering with the mass media serve just as a few examples of this "cancellation policy" directed against ordinary people. The report vividly illustrates all of this with specific cases.

What is truly absurd is that the Western policymakers, whose policies have actually brought about the above problems, keep on giving themselves mandates for hostile action against other sovereign countries while disregarding their own society's interests. In their quest for power at whatever cost they persist with overtly criminal activities by applying sanctions against some countries they dislike. Paradoxically, it was the citizens in the West who were the first to experience "suffocating" effects of the sanctions' stranglehold. The rhetorical question that comes to mind is whether anyone asked those people's permission for embarking on such a policy? Has anyone warned them of the consequences that would descend on their shoulders? The answer is straightforward.... Nobody.

Belarus has repeatedly pointed out that using human rights as a political method for interstate relations is inadmissible. For many diverse objective reasons, there are no ideal countries in the world. Human rights in any society should serve the purpose of unity rather than division. Human rights should be the point for seeking acceptable solutions rather than the ground for strife.

Vladimir Makei

Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Belarus

AUSTRIA

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

art. 21 (the right to peaceful assembly)

ICESCR

art. 6 (the right to work)

art. 12 (the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)

The government's measures against the coronavirus proved unpopular in Austrian society and led to massive protests. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of the Austrian capital to protest against the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination and the self-isolation regime for those who had not yet been vaccinated. At the end of 2021, such demonstrations were drawing thousands of people yet across the whole of Austria and took place for several consecutive weeks. Thus, in Vienna, the police numbered about 40 thousand protesters every weekend. The most massive protests against compulsory vaccination took place in Vienna.



Photo: [REUTERS/Lisi Niesner](#)

On January 8, 2022, demonstrators in the Austrian capital gathered on the central Heldenplatz square near the Hofburg Palace and marched along the Ringstrasse avenue. The movement of ground public transport and cars was paralyzed due to blocked roads for the passage of columns of demonstrators. Participants burned flares and smoke bombs, threw firecrackers. Individual protesters were detained. Despite harsh criticism and protests from Austrians, in January 2022 Austria passed a law on mandatory vaccination against coronavirus.



Photo: [Sipa USA](#)

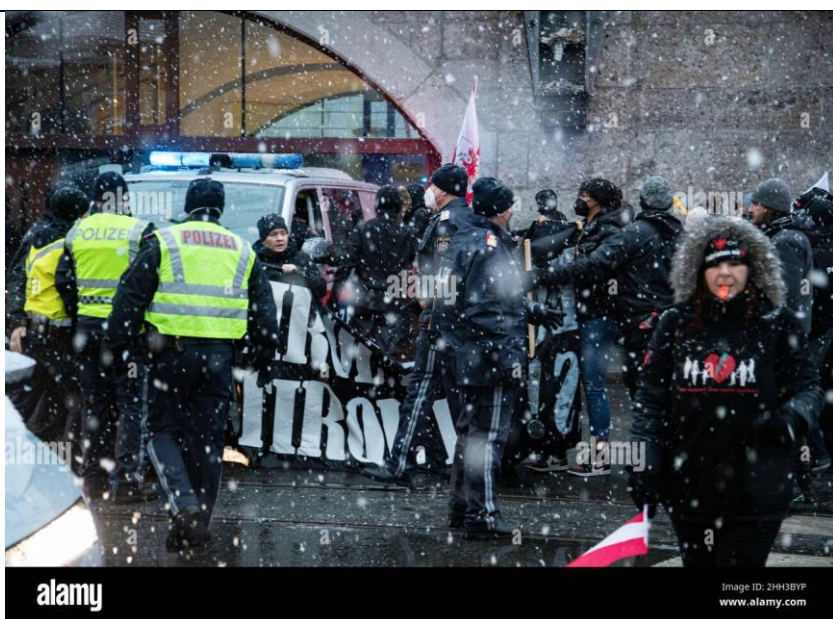


Photo: [Florian Wieser/Agence France-Presse](#)

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

In Austria, amendments to the Federal Law "On Islam" (German: Islamgesetz), adopted in July 2021 the control powers of the Department of Worship at the Office of the Federal Chancellor in relation to Islamic structures are significantly expanded and the process of liquidation of Islamic communities is simplified in case of violations. Changes to the law have become part of the so-called "anti-terrorist package", the development of which the Austrian authorities announced after the terrorist attack in Vienna in November 2020. These amendments may lead to stigmatization of Muslims. One of the goals of the "package" was to fight against so-called "political Islam".

The Islamic Religious Community of Austria (IGGÖ) – the largest public association of Austrian Muslims – condemned the adoption of the new version of the law. Community representatives point to the discriminatory nature of the amendments. Austrian Muslims also consider it unacceptable to link the issues of combating terrorism and the relationship of the state with religious institutions.

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

Private detective Julian Hessenthaler, who had been put on the international wanted list in connection with allegations of blackmail against Heinz-Christian Strache, the former leader of the Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ), appeared before the district court in the Austrian city of St. Pölten in September 2021. In 2020, he was arrested in Berlin and extradited to Austria. The investigation against J. Hessenthaler was carried out with unprecedented intensity. Methods such as wiretapping, searches, etc. were involved. As a result of the investigation, the charges of blackmail were dropped. However, according to Amnesty International, "the special motivation for the persecution of J. Hessenthaler is a problem signal for all [investigative] journalists. Anyone who reveals too much of the truth faces criminal prosecution, possibly beyond national borders."

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICESCR

art. 11 (the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions)

CAT

art. 4 (criminal prosecution of persons participating/participating in torture)

Amnesty International's 2021/2022 Annual Human Rights Report, as published in April 2022, criticizes Austria for insufficient social benefits and lack of measures to combat homelessness, inadequate investigation of cases of police violence, unjustified deportations of asylum seekers and problems with discrimination against migrants. By the end of 2021, an independent investigation and complaints service to deal with allegations of abuse, as announced by the government in January 2020, had not been established.



Photo: [andreyshvchenko](#)

BELGIUM

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICESCR

art. 11 (the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions)

Due to weak national measures to support the population, the situation with the socio-economic rights of the Belgians has noticeably worsened. In particular, as of May 2022, 1 million Belgians experienced difficulties with paying their energy bills, and inflation in Belgium was one of the highest in Europe.

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICESCR

art. 11 (the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions)

art. 12 (the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)

ICCPR

art. 8 (freedom from slavery and servitude)

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion)

About a thousand of undocumented migrants known as “sans-papiers”, mainly people from North Africa and South Asia (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Pakistan), who had been in Belgium illegally for a long time, some of them – for more than ten years, were forced to demand legalization of their stay in the country in an extreme form. They settled in one of the churches in the center of Brussels and have been staying there for weeks in an unsanitary environment. Some of them went on a dry hunger strike and sewed up their mouths, suicide attempts were registered. Under public pressure the government promised to expedite the processing of applications for the issuance of documents for humanitarian reasons and for medical reasons – for the most vulnerable people.

But in March 2022, instead of dealing with the “sans-papiers” documentation, the Belgian government decided to construct three new closed detention centers for migrants, 100 million euros to be allocated for this purpose. This decision brought condemnation by some deputies and civil society organizations helping migrants.



Photo: www.francetvinfo.fr/pictures/



Photo: www.ultimedia.com/deliver/generic/iframe/

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 9 (the right to liberty and protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (the right to freedom of expression)

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion)

A series of protests against coronavirus restrictions that turned violent took place in Brussels late 2021 – early 2022. At a protest rally on November 21, 2021 the organizers said they "condemn restrictions against freedom that are not a structural solution to health issues." It is estimated that up to 35,000 people took part in the rally. Law enforcement forces used special equipment, including water cannons and tear gas. Three police officers and one demonstrator were reportedly hospitalized as a result of the riots. Significant damage to property was caused. Six police cars were damaged, a police scooter was set on fire. Cars parked in the area of clashes, public buildings and shops were also damaged.

Another massive demonstration against COVID measures in Brussels, on January 23, 2022, turned violent as marchers clashed with the police. Water cannon and tear gas were deployed. Administrative arrests were made. Some protesters carried placards with slogans like: "We want to be free again" and "No COVID slave ticket". The rally drew about 50,000 people.

Belgium's position in the report from the CIVICUS Monitor, annual ranking of civil rights across the world, was downgraded. The CIVICUS Monitor notes that the ranking of Belgium downgraded from "open" to "narrow". This is due to concerns of a clampdown on media freedom and attacks on certain civil society groups. CIVICUS Monitor notes the issue of violent protests as well as the demonstration of thousands of Francophone teachers against working conditions in schools and financial cuts to the school system in February 2022.



Photo: <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/en/2021/11/22/brussels-clears-up-after-violence-that-followed-sundays-demonstr/>

BULGARIA

The following international obligations have been violated:

CAT

art. 3 (the principle of non-refoulement)

art. 2 (prevention of acts of torture)

cm. 4 (criminal prosecution of persons participating/participating in torture)

ICESCR

art. 11 (the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions)

art. 12 (the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)

ICCPR

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

According to the Amnesty International Annual Report «The State of the World's Human Rights», Bulgaria continues to carry out systematic pushbacks of migrants and asylum seekers at its borders. Over 1,100 pushbacks were recorded by the end of 2021, affecting at least 13,000 people. In July 2021, the European Court of Human Rights found that Bulgaria had violated the European Convention on Human Rights by expelling a journalist to Türkiye in 2016 without examining the risks of ill-treatment he faced on his return.

Roma in Bulgaria continue to face widespread social exclusion and discrimination, including in education, health and employment.

On January 12, 2022, a mass protest took place in Sofia near the National Assembly against restrictions (green certificates) introduced in the country in connection with the coronavirus pandemic. During the protest, clashes with police took place, the protesters broke through the cordon, surrounded the parliament building and tried to get inside. Police managed to stop the protesters. Nine police officers were injured and taken to hospital for medical treatment. Several people have been detained.

Ill-treatment of social care residents and patients with psychiatric disorders authorities remains a problematic issue. In October 2021, the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture reported numerous cases of people being beaten, and they were also found abandoned in unhygienic conditions.

In August 2021, the Bulgarian Ombudsperson Diana Kovacheva said that specially designated zone for unaccompanied refugee children in the Voenna Rampa reception centre was severely overcrowded and that children lived in extremely poor and unhygienic conditions. As a result of an inspection conducted by the Ombudsperson, it was found that 221 minors were registered in the specially designated zone instead of 100 children it can handle. At the same time, 75 children were placed in the sports hall in poor conditions and with access to two bathrooms and two toilets.



Photo: <https://www.unian.net/multimedia/photo/>

CANADA

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 6 (right to life)

art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

ICESCR

art. 11 (the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions)

art. 12 (the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)

The freedom of peaceful assembly is not guaranteed in Canada, where protesters are subjected to force and special anti-riot means to disperse demonstrations against epidemiological restrictions and other unpopular government actions. On February 19, 2022, Canadian police used pepper spray and stun grenades against demonstrators who occupied downtown Ottawa for more than three weeks to protest against pandemic protocol. One protester was severely beaten by the police more than 100 people were detained.



and

Photo: mobilenews24x7.com

Despite non-compliance with international human rights standards in the detention of migrants, Canada continues to detain them without the court's decision. According to human rights organizations, as of 1 March 2022, 206 migrants were in detention, some of whom had arrived in Canada many years before. However, some migrants had been in detention for some years.

The lack of attention to economic and social rights



Photo: [Graham Hughes/The Canadian Press](https://www.thecanadianpress.com)



has resulted in Canada's epidemiological response to COVID-19 disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. Human rights organizations report that many older persons have lost their homes, small businesses, debt because of predatory lenders, and have been forced to go without food, medicine and necessities.

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination condemned Canada's harassment of indigenous people to continue construction the GasLink

pipeline. CERD refers to "the use of force, surveillance and criminalization of land defenders and peaceful demonstrators to intimidate, remove and forcibly evict Secwepemc and Wet'suwet'en Nations from their traditional lands".

CZECH REPUBLIC

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 9 (the right to liberty, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 14 (the right to independent and impartial tribunal)

art. 19 (the right to freedom of expression)

On February 1, 2022, a demonstration took place outside the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic regarding a proposal to extend the pandemic law. According to media reports, several protesters attacked police officers who were present to secure the event, injuring one law enforcement officer. According to Prague police spokesman Jan Danek, six people were detained in relation with the incident.

On April 7, 2022, the Prague City Court sentenced Alojz Polák to 20 years in prison for fighting in Ukraine on the side of the so-called pro-Russian separatists between 2016 and 2020. The sentence was handed down in absentia, as the defendant is absconding from Czech justice. The prosecution alleged that Alojz Polák served in the ranks of the so-called pro-Russian separatists in Donbas as a sniper and killed at least four soldiers of the Ukrainian armed forces. Because of this, the accused faced an exceptional punishment. The police claim that he is now in Ukraine and continues to take part in hostilities.

Czech legislation prohibits citizens from taking part in hostilities on the side of any foreign country. However, volunteers who decide to fight on the side of Ukraine will receive a special non-prosecution document from the President of the Czech Republic. On May 25, 2022, a second-instance appeals court upheld a 20-year prison sentence for Pavel Botka, a 41-year-old Czech citizen who is alleged to have joined "separatist forces" fighting in eastern Ukraine. The court rejected his appeal and found him guilty of committing a terrorist attack and participating in a terrorist group. "There is no doubt that the defendant was in eastern Ukraine and that he was involved in hostilities," said Miroslav Pavrovský, chairman of the appeal panel of the Prague Supreme Court. He also added that "although this is a very harsh sentence, it is the lowest limit of imprisonment".



Photo: https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/domaci/snemovna-pandemicky-zakon-vlada-koronavirus-mimoradna-schuze.A220201_050915_domaci_kop/foto/nahledy

ESTONIA

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR
 art. 6 (inherent right to life)
 art. 9 (right to liberty, protection from arbitrary arrest)
 art. 14 (right to a fair and public hearing)
 art. 19 (the right to hold opinions without interference, to freedom of expression)
 art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion)

The Harju County Court has completed its consideration of the criminal case of Sergei Seredenko arrested in March 2021 by the Estonian special services on suspicion of «anti-state activity». Despite the length of S. Seredenko's detention, no details were brought to the public regarding the charges filed against him. Public activists supporting him were not allowed into the courtroom. The closed nature of the trial of S. Seredenko and the lack of any specific information about the essence of the charges against him raises concerns. Since February 25, 2022 The Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority (TTJA) in Estonia ordered to end the broadcasting of four Russian TV channels and one Belarusian TV channel (the banned channels were RTR Planeta, NTV Mir (including NTV Mir Baltic), Belarus 24, Russia 24 and TV Center International) due to the transmission of supposedly prohibited information by these channels (meaning the broadcast of the speech of Russian President V.Putin on February 24). Discrimination on the ground of nationality is the decisions taken by the Estonian leadership to restrict the ability of citizens of Russia and Belarus to work or do business in Estonia, to suspend the issuance of visas and residence permits to them; a ban on Russian and Belarusian artists who «support the Putin regime» from entering Estonia.



Photo: <https://lv.sputniknews.ru/>

On April 8, 2022 access to 4 more Russian websites (smotrim.ru, ontvtime.ru, tokshow.online and rus24.tv) was restricted under the pretext that these sites «spread war propaganda, justify and support aggression and incite hatred creating a threat to public order in Estonia». Consistent with available data, in total, more than 40 TV channels and more than 50 websites are currently banned in Estonia.

On April 26, 2022, civil activist S.Chaulin was detained in Tallinn on suspicion of organizing a prohibited public meeting (on the anniversary of the tragic events of the Bronze Night), although he had previously publicly announced the cancellation of the event due to police ban.

On April 28, 2022 resident of Tallinn was severely punished with 13 days of arrest for displaying the Russian flag, the St. George's ribbon, etc., banned in Estonia, in the window of his apartment.

Public gatherings associated with the celebration of May 9 and the use of military symbols including historical at events (flags of the USSR and the Russian Federation, St. George's ribbons and soviet military uniforms) are prohibited in Estonia. One of the egregious cases was the almost unjustified expulsion from the country at the beginning of May 2022 of a pro-russian activist, a resident of Estonia A.Esakov by the initiative of the The Estonian Internal Security Service (KaPo). He was accused of «for many years publicly inciting ethnic hatred and disseminating Kremlin propaganda». The KaPo justified these actions with «security concerns». The deportation of A.Esakov was carried out suddenly, without prior warning. Members of his family remained in Estonia. Since the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis, more than 150 citizens of Russia and about 120 citizens of Belarus have been denied residence permits in Estonia.

FINLAND

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art.7 (the protection on torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

art.9 (the right to freedom, protection against arbitrary arrest)

art.19 (freedom of speech and expression)

art.26 (effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion)

ICESCR

art.6 (the right to work)

art.10 (marriage shall be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses)

art.11 (everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including adequate food, clothing, housing and to the continuous improvement of living conditions)

In February 2022, a large-scale protest action «Convoy Finland» took place in Finland, the ultimate goal of which was blocking the streets in Helsinki. The protesters demanded lower-cost petrol and government dismissal.

On February 4-5, 2022 police detained about 55 protesters near the Parliament building in the capital of Finland after demonstrators attempted to block traffic. Police began forcibly towing cars belonging to the protesters when after midnight they refused to disperse.

The protests have been accompanied by detentions of demonstrators on suspicion of obstructing an official in carrying out their duties. Among the demands of the group of protesters was also the removal of all restrictions related to the coronavirus, despite repeated government assurances of intentions of gradually introducing relief.

According to the latest data, there are more than 80 thousand Russian-speakers in Finland. Together they represent the third largest ethnic community in this country after the Finns themselves, as well as the Swedes.

At the same time, however, Finns with the so-called «Russian background» (space of the former USSR) often complain about discrimination, which manifests itself, in particular, in the process of job-seeking. The local press also recognizes the existence of this problem. The Helsingin Sanomat, the country's largest newspaper, reports that in just one week of march the Finnish Association of Russian-Speaking Organizations (FARO) received over two hundred assistance applications.

Finnish media note that forced marriages are a serious problem for ethnic communities with a migration background in Finland. Forced marriage is a part of a patriarchal community structure in which gender roles

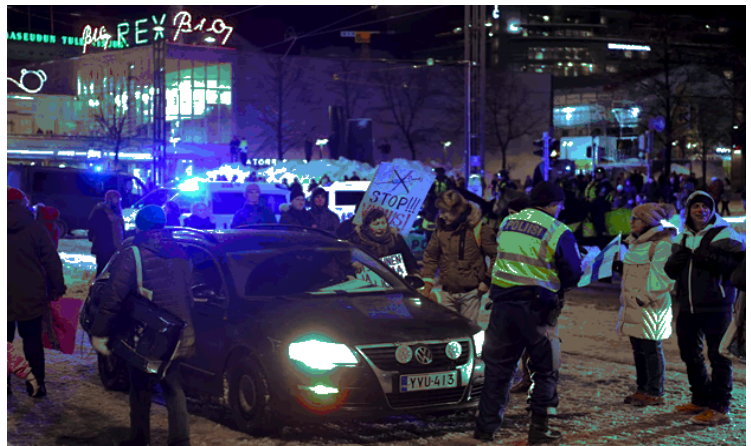


Photo: <https://yle.fi/news/3-12304724>



are supported by their own authorities and the rules of honor of the community. Forced marriage violates international treaties ratified by Finland and the Constitution of Finland. The legislation equates forced marriages with human trafficking, however, due to the specific features of forced marriages, the legislation regulating human trafficking is not effective in addressing problems within families.

According to an assessment report commissioned by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, most basic social benefits are not enough to cover the so-called minimum budget. The most disadvantaged are those who have many different factors in their lives that are discriminatory, such as illness, disability, long-term unemployment or child-rearing in a single-parent family.

The report states that the image of the Finnish welfare state is partly an illusion, and also called for Finland to follow international recommendations required by human rights conventions.

FRANCE

The following international obligations has been violated:

ICCPR
 art. 6 (right to life)
 art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)
 art. 9 (right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)
 art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)
 art. 26 (right to effective protection against discrimination on any ground, such as race, skin color, gender, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

CRC
 art. 3 (best interests of the child)

ICESCR
 art.6 (the right to work)
 art. 12 (the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)

France has experienced a surge in violence directed against approximately 500,000 Jews, the largest community in Europe, in addition to jihadist attacks in recent years.

For example, in May 2022 in France, 89-year-old René Hadjadj died after being pushed out the window of his flat in Lyon by a neighbour. The prosecutor claimed that the Frenchman was murdered because he was Jewish. However, investigators did not initially charge the arrested neighbour with a racist crime.

In February 2022, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child accused France of violating the rights of French children held for years in camps in north-eastern Syria for failing to take care of their return to their homeland. The Committee considered three cases filed by a group of French citizens whose grandchildren, nieces and nephews are currently being held in the Roj, Ayn Issa and Al-Hawl camps, which are under the control of Kurdish forces. The cases involve 49 children whose parents allegedly collaborated with the ISIS terrorist network, also known by its Arabic name Daesh. Some of them were born in Syria, while others arrived there with their French parents at a very young age.

The Committee concluded that France had a responsibility and a right to protect children from an imminent danger to their lives by taking measures for their repatriation. The Committee also found that France had not demonstrated that it had given proper consideration to the best interests of child victims when considering requests for repatriation by their relatives. These cases were referred to the Committee in 2019 and, to date, 11 children have been repatriated.

According to the Committee, the remaining 38 children remain detained in «closed camps in the war zone». Some of them are only five years old. The Committee urged France to take quick measures for their repatriation. According to Committee member Ann Skelton, the children live in inhuman sanitary conditions, lacking basic necessities including water, food and medical care, and face an imminent risk of death. At least 62 children have died in camps as a result of these conditions since the beginning of 2021.

Protests against Covid restrictions have continued in the country. French motorists, inspired by the truckers' protests in Canada, tried to hold another protest in Paris. More than seven thousand police officers and gendarmes were



Photo: https://www-euronews-com.translate.goog/2022/06/07/french-medics-protest-over-hospital-crisis-deepened-by-covid-19?_x_tr_sl=en&_x_tr_tl=ru&_x_tr_hl=ru&_x_tr_pto=sc

mobilised to counteract the road blockade by the «Freedom Convoy». On February 12, 2022 the police prefecture reported a total of about 800 vehicles detained on the approaches to the capital.

On February 13, 2022 protests swept through France, with more than 32,000 people taking part, including about 7,600 in Paris, according to TV channel BFMTV. Police detained 54 protesters and issued 337 fines. Despite the French capital's authorities banned the rally, part of the convoy, named the «Freedom Convoy», entered the Champs-Élysées. The security forces had to use tear gas in a number of occasions. By evening, the police had cleared the majority of Paris's main street, but later some protesters returned to the Champs-Élysées.

On June 7, 2022, healthcare workers across France protested, demanding more employment and higher salaries in public hospitals. Nine unions and collectives organised a day of protest outside the Ministry of Health in Paris and in dozens of other cities with the aim of drawing government attention to growing concerns about staff shortages. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, years of gradual reductions in funding had left France's once-famous public health system understaffed and ill-prepared, and now forcing emergency departments to cut their services. Demonstrations took place in other cities in France.

GERMANY

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 6 (right to life)

art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

More than 5 thousand people turned out in Berlin on August 1, 2021 to protest against the German government's anti-coronavirus measures despite a ban on gatherings. That led to clashes with police and to detention of some 600 protesters. The security forces used tear gas and irritants. One of the protesters, the 49-year-old man lost consciousness while officers checked his ID and later died at the hospital.

In November 2021, in Leipzig, several thousand critics of government measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic staged marches in the city center.

In addition to the protest marches, critics of the coronavirus restrictions also held several actions, including a motor rally "Freedom Drivers", in which 28 cars took part. In turn, the organization "Civil Movement Leipzig" staged a protest under the slogan "Freedom Day! Mandatory vaccination? Thank you, no!", which according to police estimates was attended by 300 to 400 people.



Photo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkRK9HCPiSs>



Photo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkRK9HCPiSs>



Photo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koMplrkFSdE>

The police officers from seven other federal states of Germany were involved to ensure the public order by the protests that took place despite the ban. According to the statement by the Saxon police after the protests, "...a consistent work was carried out by the police to prevent unauthorized demonstrations. For this, a direct coercion was partly used". Several separate processions, a number of participants of which exceeded more than one hundred people, were dispersed by the police. According to the applicable regulations at that time, only meetings (and not processions) with the participation of no more than one thousand people were allowed in the city.



Photo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkRK9HCPiSs>

As a result of clashes between police and protesters 48 offenses have been registered. More than 500 people were temporarily detained and checked. The 24 people were taken into custody because of their behavior. More than 600 administrative proceedings were initiated. Five police officers were injured. The one officer had to be hospitalized because of the eye injuries he suffered. The police used special means. The water cannons and other special equipment were placed on the city streets for a possible dispersal of the demonstrators.

In January 2022 mass protests continued across Germany against the Federal government's anti "COVID-19" measures and a possible introduction of mandatory vaccination. The protests have been taking place almost across Germany on a daily basis, with the number of participants more than tens of thousands throughout the country. Saturday's demonstrations by the critics of the government's measures to combat the pandemic in Hamburg have been the largest.

On January 8, 2022 according to police estimates around 16 thousand people turned out to protest under the slogan: "The patience's bowl is overflowing. Hands off our children."

Despite a police ban on the protest action, on the 15th of January, 2022 around 3 thousand of people gathered in front of Hamburger "Kunsthalle" museum. The police tried to disperse the demonstrators when they began to display posters and chant slogans. It broke out to several scuffles between citizen and representatives of law enforcement bodies. The police used special means.

On January 17, 2022 the president of the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution Thomas Haldenwang said that among the people protesting against the anti "COVID-19" measures there is a new category of enemies of the state who do not fall under the categories of right-wing or left-wing extremists. Such people are united not by the ideology, but the contempt for the democratic state and its representatives.

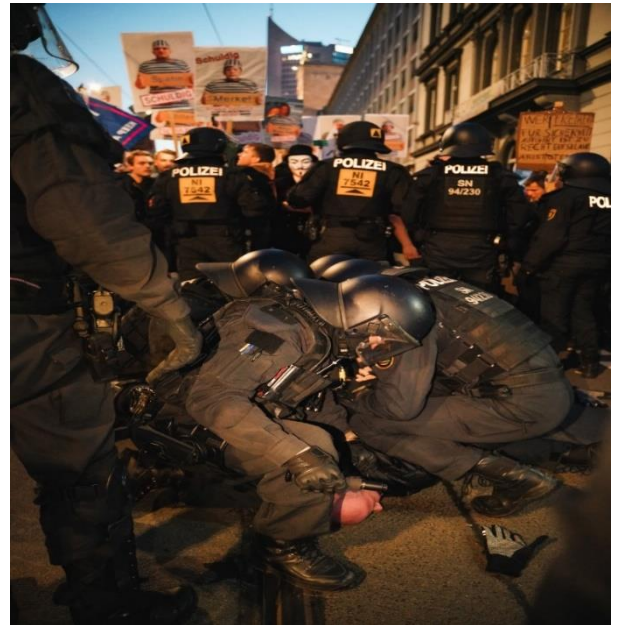


Photo: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1457018130329395206>



Photo: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1457018130329395206>

GREECE

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

ICESCR

art. 6 (the right to work)

art. 12 (the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)

During protests in Athens, police used tear gas, stun grenades and water cannons to disperse the protesters. The detentions took place.

In August 2021, the Government of Greece introduced additional measures and restrictions that directly affect the rights of unvaccinated part of population. In particular, they require unvaccinated workers in public and private sectors to take laboratory rapid tests on a weekly basis at their own expense.

On August 29 in Athens and on September 11, 2021 in Thessaloniki, mass protests were held against the announced measures (according to police estimates, more than 7 and 15 thousand people took part in them, respectively).

According to media reports, in the first days of new restrictive measures, in particular, more than 2,5 thousand people could not get on the ferries connecting the Greek islands with the mainland of the country, due to the lack of vaccination certificates or documents confirming the absence of coronavirus.

The protests were accompanied by clashes with police. Law enforcement agencies used tear gas, stun grenades and water cannons to disperse the protesters. Dozens of them have been detained.



Photo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSFUiMD0VoU> (video) photo archive july



Photo: <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2021/08/29/665441/Greek-police-clash-with-anti-vaccine-protesters-in-Athens>.

According to the information announced by the Minister of Health of Greece, Thanos Plevris, about 7,000 healthcare workers have been suspended from work due to non-compliance with the legal requirement for mandatory vaccination before September 1.

The following international obligations have been violated:

CAT

art. 3 (the principle of non-refoulement)

art. 2 (prevention of acts of torture)

ICCPR

art. 6 (right to life)

art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

Human Rights Watch released a report «Their Faces Were Covered: Greece's Use of Migrants as Police Auxiliaries in Pushbacks» based on interviews with 26 Afghan refugees who attempted to cross the Turkish-Greek land

border between September 2021 and February 2022 and were pushed back to Turkey. The report found that during this period Greek police detained asylum seekers at the Greek-Turkish land border at the Evros River, in most cases beating them and depriving of their clothing, stealing their money, phones and other possessions. They then turned the migrants over to masked men, who forced them onto small boats, took them to the middle of the Evros River, and threw them into the cold water, making them wade to the riverbank on the Turkish side. For these purposes, persons of Middle Eastern or South Asian origin were hired, and they spoke the respective languages.

On February 2, 2022, the Minister of Interior of Türkiye, Süleyman Soylu, said on Twitter that 12 of the 22 migrants pushed back by Greek Border Units, stripped off from their clothes and shoes have frozen to death. He also posted blurred images showing the bodies lying by the roadside with some wearing only shorts and T-shirts despite the cold. The pictures were taken near the city of Ipsala on the western border of Türkiye with Greece.

ITALY

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR
 art. 7 (protection against torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)
 art. 9 (right to liberty, protection from arbitrary arrest)
 art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)
 art. 26 (right to effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion)

On September 24, 2021, Italian police arrested former Catalan leader C.Puigdemont in Alghero, Sardinia, who was planning to hold meetings with activists for Sardinian autonomy as well as the leadership of the island (including the governor and the speaker of the regional council).

On September 25, 2021, there were scuffles between protesters and police in Milan, resulting in light injuries to several activists.

On the night of October 9-10, 2021, in Rome, the police arrested 12 people including the leaders of the far-right movement Forza Nuova (New Force) R.Fiore and G.Castellino. The riots took place in the very center of Rome, near the residence of the Italian government (Palazzo Chigi), near which about half a thousand demonstrators gathered, demanding the resignation of M. Draghi's cabinet. Some of the demonstrators, whose faces were covered by masks, threw firecrackers and empty bottles at the police. Law enforcement authorities used water cannons and tear gas against the protesters. At the same time, a small group of protesters, including far-right activists, attacked the headquarters of the largest trade union confederation.

They managed to break down the door of the main entrance and briefly enter the premises, but almost immediately they were forced out of the building by law enforcement. There were reports of police officers injured during the attack. On October 16, 2021 in Milan, nine participants in a mass demonstration against green certificates were detained for scuffles with the police.

On October 18, 2021, law enforcement forces forcibly dismantled the camp of protesters in the city of Trieste. The police used water cannons and tear gas.

The further restriction of the right to peaceful demonstration is evidenced by the introduction of new rules for public events in November 2021, with a de facto ban on "anti-Greenspace" demonstrations in historic city centers. This measure provoked another round of protests in Bologna, Naples and Milan. People fired from their jobs because of the absence of green passes came out to protest.

In a restriction of freedom of expressions, on November 14, 2021, the Italian police arrested 18 people in different cities of the country who were related to the telegram channel "Basta dittatura" (End the dictatorship), which opposed



Photo: <https://ria.ru/20211010/besporvadki-1753874583.html>



Photo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AC87rGC8IY>

the imposition of compulsory vaccinations and other public restrictions imposed under the pretext of opposing the pandemic. Those arrested were charged with inciting citizens to disobey the country's laws.



Photo: https://www.ansa.it/lombardia/notizie/2021/10/16/green-pass-corteo-a-milano-verso-sede-della-rai_f432bf8a-cc3b-40f8-852d-a52b1d3012de.html

On January 23, 2022, hundreds of people filled Piazza del Pantheon in Rome; on February 24, 2022, there was a student procession in Turin in memory of the deceased. These mourning actions ended with violent clashes with the demonstrators, police used batons. The demonstrators had bruises on their bodies and some were taken away by ambulance. On November 14, 2021, the Italian police made 18 arrests in different cities of the country of persons involved in the telegram channel "Basta dittatura" (End the dictatorship!), which promotes resistance to the imposition of compulsory vaccinations and other public restrictions imposed under the pretext of countering the pandemic. Those arrested were charged with inciting citizens to disobey the country's laws. In the course of searches the activists had a five-liter tank of hydrochloric acid, a crossbow, several bayonets and an antique gun, several knives and one historical document relating to Nazism seized. The excesses of law enforcers also extend to places of detention.

On June 29, 2021 a video of mass beating of prisoners by the administration of Santa Maria Capua Vetere prison (province of Caserta, region of Campania) was spread in the Italian media. People were chased through the ranks and kneeled, kicked and beaten with batons, including in the stomach and groin. Despite the announced investigation of the officials implicated in the unjustified violence, there is currently no information about the outcome of the investigation and the prosecution of the perpetrators.

The level of social tension in Italy is confirmed by the fact that the population sees no other way to convey their discontent to the authorities except through mass public actions. Another cause for protest was the death of Lorenzo Parelli, an 18 year old schoolboy who died in a factory in Udine on January 22, 2022. He was killed in an accident: a metal beam which weighed 150 kilograms fell on him.



Photo: <https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/porto-trieste-polizia-sgombera-gli-idranti-presidio-no-green-pass-AEEXuhq>

LATVIA

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

Situation with refugees from Ukraine clearly demonstrates the rooting of discriminatory ideas on ethnic grounds in the political circles of Latvia. In a short period of time Latvia invited more than 30 thousand Ukrainian refugees and provided them with living and working conditions better than Russian-speaking non-citizens of Latvia and foreign citizens officially residing in the country.

Citizens of Ukraine may work without knowledge of the Latvian language with incomplete package of documents, mandatory for other foreign citizens, receive good medical care and the country's average salary. Latvian employers have provided Ukrainian refugees with thousands of jobs while the registered unemployment rate in Latvia is 6.5% or 59 thousand people and in some regions, for example, Latgale – 13.5%.



Photo: LatvianHistory.com



Photo: [Ivars Soikāns/LETA](https://www.lets.lv)

In the same time since summer 2021 Latvian human rights organizations have been trying to draw the attention of European institutions to human rights violations against other refugees on the Latvian-Belarusian border who have tried in vain to take refuge in Europe while saving souls from wars and destruction in their countries. Latvian Minister of Internal Affairs Ms. Marija Golubeva called these people “fake refugees”. Foreign Minister Mr. Edgars Rinkevics accused human rights organizations of creating “fake news”. Consideration of reports from human rights organizations was rejected by the relevant parliamentary commission.

Latvian officials deny the results of publicly available researches from human rights activists about the events that took place on the Latvian side in 2021 as well as the involvement of border guards and security agencies of Latvia to the recorded facts of beating and forcible expulsion of refugees from the territory of Latvia in violation of international law. One of the research is available here: www.latvia-belarus-border.com

The contrasting attitude of official Latvia to the small number of asylum seekers crossing the Latvian border from Belarus gives the grounds to suggest that racial discrimination is the main reason for the introduction since August 10, 2021 the state of emergency on the border with the Republic of Belarus. The introduction of state of emergency made possible to formally hide from



Photo: t.me/sputniklive

the mass media and European human rights organizations the real picture in border regions of Latvia and helped to prohibit documenting of the events at the Latvian border. Bypassing international law Latvia has legalized “push-back” practice and the use of force against refugees at the border.

Freedom of expression rights and freedom of assembly rights are suppressed by forceful methods. The Latvian authorities practice the targeted policy of strengthening censorship and cleaning up the country's information field depriving the population of opportunity to obtain information from alternative sources. In particular, Belarusian television and the news portal “belta.by” were blocked. Media and social networks are subject to censorship, social network users and media owners are subject to administrative and criminal sanctions. Citizens and non-citizens of Latvia are deprived of alternative sources of information – viewing prohibited media is punished by the fine of 700 euros. Legal entity may be fined up to 14 thousand euros for distributing the program guide of banned TV-channel or broadcasting them.

Recently the traits of Nazism have been showing up increasingly in statements from high tribunes. Hate speech has become the norm for politicians in Latvia. Public insults and humiliation incite discord and discrimination in society.

In particular, in May 2022 during the parliamentary debates on the law on demolition of monuments the member of parliament from the ruling party Mr. Janis Iesalnieks spoke about the Russian-speaking population of Latvia: “When I was at the age of five I understood that two societies exist: there are our Latvians and occupiers. There was hatred between the two groups among children. And this hatred has not ended because the occupiers have not left yet.”

From the lips of this politician another statement was made regarding the population of Latvia who laid flowers at the monuments on May 9 – 10, 2022: “It is very good that they were shown, these disgusting faces. We will demolish this object in Riga sacred for disgusting faces”.

The President of Latvia Mr. Egils Levits after the expulsion of some foreign citizens from the country said that disloyal residents of Latvia cannot be deprived of Latvian citizenship within the framework of international law but they may be subjected to criminal prosecution. According to the President, Latvia takes care of all the population if they are ready to integrate. Loyalty testing is a common practice. If the resident with Latvian citizenship opposes the Latvian state, the criminal case must be initiated. In this case the disloyal citizen of Latvia will not be expelled from the country but will be put in jail.

Taking into account the ban on celebration of the Victory Day in Latvia a significant number of security agencies were involved to control the order in memorial places on May 8 – 9, 2022. The flowers laid at the monument to the Liberators of Riga were promptly removed on May 10, 2022 with a help of tractor. This action caused a response from a part of society: the residents of Riga who were not indifferent to what had happened brought flowers again and remained near the memorial for a long time suppressing similar actions of the city authorities and nationalist-minded citizens, some of which outrageously “kicked” flowers that symbolize the memory of the heroes who died in the battles for the liberation of Latvia from the Nazi invaders.

Unsanctioned gathering of people at the monument in Riga was perceived extremely negatively by the country's leadership, the appropriate orders were issued. The police with a help of special agencies “cleaned up” the area around the main monument and blocked access to Victory Park. Member of the European Parliament Mrs. Tatjana Zdanoka and some activists who took action against demolition of the Monument of Liberators of Riga were detained. A young man who came to the park on May 10 with a Russian flag was accused of justifying the genocide and he faces a five-year prison term. Some police officers lost their positions due to creating conditions for people to lay flowers to the monument.



Photo: TVNET

Victory Park will be open again for residents and guests of Riga only after the demolition of the Monument of Liberators, information about the demolition of which was classified in order to avoid protests.

In a short time, the Parliament of Latvia passed amendments to the bilateral international treaty with Russia of 1994 on mutual protection of monuments and approved the law obliging by November 15, 2022 to demolish the Soviet monuments erected after 1940. Fragments of destroyed monuments will replenish the collection of the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia and will be used as building material for local roads strengthening. Memorials in honor of the Latvian legionnaires “Waffen SS” are decided to save.

It is hard to imagine what the veterans of the Great Patriotic War their children and grandchildren are going through against the backdrop of Latvian officials’ actions aimed to destroy the memory of acts of moral courage of the Soviet people during the World War II.

LITHUANIA

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 6 (right to life)

art.. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art.. 14 (right to a fair trial)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

CAT

art. 3 (the principle of non-refoulement)

art. 2 (prevention of acts of torture)

art. 4 (criminal prosecution of persons participating/participating in torture)

The Lithuanian authorities are pursuing a policy of destroying the historic memory of soviet soldiers who gave their lives for the liberation of Europe from Nazism during the Second World War. Thus, the mayor of Vilnius Remigijus Šimašius said that he would seek the demolition of six sculptures located at the largest burial place of soviet soldiers in Lithuania at the Antakalnis cemetery.

The municipality of the Pasvalys district in northern Lithuania also announced a decision to dismantle several USSR-era war memorials. Cases of vandalism and desecration of monuments to soviet soldiers continue to be reported. Earlier, monuments were demolished at the burial places of soviet soldiers in the cities of Kaunas, Kedainiai and in the village of Šėta.

On December 21, 2021, the Lithuanian Ministry of Justice paid compensation to Palestinian Abu Zubaydah for illegal detention in a secret Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) prison near Vilnius. The fact that the ECHR ordered Lithuania to pay this compensation testifies to the falsity of the denial by the Lithuanian authorities of the existence of such prisons in that country. Lithuanian authorities evade investigation into their involvement in torture in secret CIA prisons. The issue of accountability for these crimes remains open.

In Lithuania, political opinions are grounds for persecution and restriction of freedom. In July 2021, the Šiauliai district court sentenced opposition politician Algirdas Paleckis to six years in prison for allegedly spying for Russia. In May 2022, the Lithuanian Court of Appeal upheld this decision. The politician pleaded not guilty. He believes he was prosecuted for dissent. Prior to the appeal, A.Paleckis was at large under increased surveillance and a bail of 50,000 euros. From October 2018 to April 2020 he was held under arrest.



Photo: www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5HNhYcDrRQ

The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism Ms. Fionnuala NÍ AOLÁIN in her report in 2022 recalled that the European Court of Human Rights recognized Lithuania, along with a number of other states, as complicit in the torture and enforced disappearance of prisoners under the US rendition and secret detention programs. The Special Rapporteur called for an effective independent judicial or quasi-judicial investigation by governments, including Lithuania, of credible allegations that secret prisons ("black holes") have been set up on their soil.

The mistreatment of migrants is state-sanctioned and methodically violates existing international asylum agreements. In July 2021 Lithuania adopted a law restricting appeals against asylum denials and allowing for possible deportation during the appeal process. Since then, detentions at the border have become commonplace, and migrants already intercepted or trying to enter Lithuania are subjected to inhuman and cruel treatment. Lithuanian authorities confirm that as of April 2022, the right to access the asylum procedure has been denied in 9447 cases.



Photo: img3.eadaily.com

According to the World Organization Against Torture, 2797 individuals are being held in detention in inhuman and degrading conditions. Detention facilities are overcrowded and have very poor conditions: inadequate food, lack of hot water, poor sanitation and insufficient personal space. The physical and mental health of migrants is deteriorating dramatically due to their indefinite detention, suicide attempts are on the rise.

NETHERLANDS

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 6 (right to life)

art.. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

CRC

art. 3 (best interests of the child)

CAT

art.3 (the principle of non-refoulement)

art. 2 (prevention of acts of torture)

art. 4 (criminal prosecution of persons participating/participating in torture)

In Curaçao, with the direct involvement of the Dutch government, human rights are being violated and refugees from Venezuela are being treated unacceptably. Human rights activists have identified at least eight cases of underage children who were detained separately from their mothers and fathers and unlawfully deported without parental guidance or consent.

There are also records of tortures in the detention centre in Koraal Specht. In one of the uprisings in the barracks the Venezuelans who had participated were called one by one out of sight of the cameras into a bathroom and beaten.



Photo: www.curacaochronicle.com

The situation in March 2022 revealed problems with the general lack of sufficient number of places in the Netherlands to accommodate refugees from various countries of the world, as well as discrimination of refugees from other countries compared to Ukrainians.

The Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Ter Apel and temporary shelters around the country received more than 37,000 asylum seekers, among them 15 000 Ukrainians. Ter Apel was overcrowded and had a shortage of camp beds. Asylum seekers from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, among others, spend their first nights there on a chair or on the floor.

For instance, the mayor of Westerwolde Jaap Velema, where the application center of Ter Apel is located, said: "Municipalities in the Netherlands use double standards when it comes to the reception of refugees. It is great that my colleagues from other municipalities are lining up to receive tens of thousands of refugees from Ukraine, but it is shameful that no municipality has volunteered to receive refugees from other countries. "



Photo: dutchreview.com

The mayor of Groningen Koen Schuiling said: "It is understandable that there is a lot of enthusiasm to receive Ukrainians, but people from other war zones such as Syria and Afghanistan have equal rights. The situation in Ter Apel is untenable and inhumane".

The Netherlands are introducing a «national consultative office» where universities and scholars can turn to with the issues of “academic freedom and espionage”. Officially the office will be providing consultations on the issues of international cooperation”, but will “focus attention on cooperation partners from not free countries”. Apparently it is meant to officially introduce in the Netherlands the obligatory censorship for all the universities, their heads, academic councils and lecturers in the sphere of international cooperation with the partners from “not free” countries, as the office understand it. The national list of high-risk research areas and programs of cooperation will be introduced in 2023-2024, for which it will be necessary to submit the reports to the office and to check the partners.

Harsh actions of law enforcement officers during the crackdown on peaceful protests drew criticism on the Netherlands on behalf of the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, who strongly condemned the cruelty of the police. On January 3 2022 he shared two posts in social networks with the videos about police violence during the protests against anti-COVID-19 measures in the country. He called one of the recorded incidents “one of the most disgusting scenes of police brutality since George Floyd”.



Photo: <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/netherlands/>

NORWAY

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR
 art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)
 art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)
 art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)
 art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

The suppression of environmental activists in Norway who oppose the expansion of the country's oil and gas industry is continuing. In August 2021, Norwegian police forcibly dispersed a demonstration by Extinction Rebellion activists outside the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy. The police operation was accompanied by arrests of dozens of people occupying the premises of the Ministry. Another 29 protesters were arrested for blocking one of the city's main streets.

In March 2022, the Norwegian news agency NRK reported that a citizen of Belarus was refused employment by the consulting firm Head Energy. An employee of the company motivated this decision by the following: "due to the situation with Ukraine, Aibel [note – the management company] does not accept applicants from Russia at the moment".

Subsequently, the general manager of the company apologised and stated that the candidate was allegedly not qualified for this position. He offered to apply for other vacancies.

In April 2022, Norwegian police used tear gas during a Quran-burning rally held by the anti-Muslim organisation SIAN.

From 300 to 400 protesters opposed the rally. Mass clashes with the police occurred, during which force was used against the protesters, including tear gas.

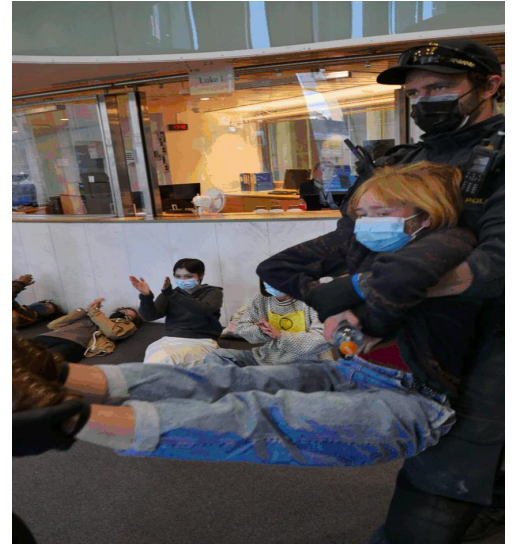


Photo: https://twitter.com/ExtinctionR_NO/status/1429917400133156867/photo/2



Photo: <https://www.thelocal.no/20220423/norwegian-police-spray-tear-gas-during-planned-koran-burning-demonstration/>



Photo: <https://www.thelocal.no/20220423/norwegian-police-spray-tear-gas-during-planned-koran-burning-demonstration/>

POLAND

The following international obligations have been violated:

- ICCPR**
 art. 6 (right to life)
 art. 7 (protection against torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)
 art. 9 (right to liberty, protection from arbitrary arrest)
 art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)
 art. 26 (right to effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion)
- CAT**
 art. 2 (prevention of acts of torture)
 art. 3 (principle of non-refoulement)
- CRC**
 art. 3 (best provision of interests of the child)

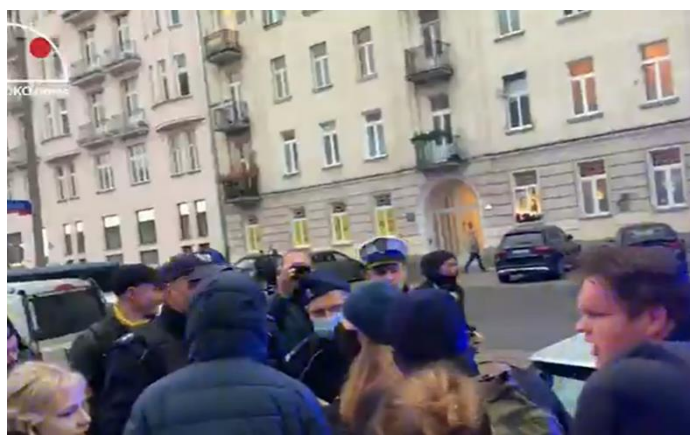
On August 8, 2021, there were mass protests in Lubin (Lower Silesia Voivodeship) following an incident on August 6 2021 during which police detained a 32-year-old local man, Bartosz Sokołowski, who died while being physically assaulted by police officers.

More than 200 protesters attempted to smash up the local police station. The police responded by actively using water cannons and tear gas. As a result, 57 people were detained, including two minors.

On September 6, 2021 it became known that on August 2, 2021, six local police officers in Wrocław detained a 29-year-old Polish citizen Łukasz Łągiewka with the use of physical force (telescopic batons, gas), after which he was taken to the hospital, where he died the same day from "cardiac arrest". On the basis of this case journalists cite other cases of excessive use of force by Wrocław police officers. In particular, on July 30 2021, Dmytro Nikiforenko, a citizen of Ukraine, was beaten to death by three officers of the prevention department of the local police commandant's office in the city detoxification centre.

On October 22, 2021, a protest rally took place in Warsaw to mark the anniversary of the Constitutional Court's ruling banning eugenic abortions, during which police officers physically detained and checked the documents of those attending the event.

At the beginning of October 2021, the Polish Sejm legalised the expulsion of refugees (so called «push-backs») and removed the requirement to accept asylum applications from them. These provisions contradict the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which Poland has pledged to uphold.



Video: <https://oko.press/demonstracje-w-rok-po-decyzji-tk-julii-przylebskiej-nie-smucimy-sie-tylko-bierzemy-do-roboty/>

The following international obligations have been violated:

CAT

art.3 (the principle of non-refoulement)

art. 2 (prevention of acts of torture)

CRC

art. 3 (best interests of the child)

During September 2021 Poland illegally expelled refugees from its territory. A UNHCR communiqué published on October 22, 2021 described the case of 32 asylum seekers from Afghanistan, including 4 women, 27 men and one 15-year-old girl. These persons have been "trapped" on the border between Poland and Belarus since 18 August 2021 without food, clean water, a roof over their heads and medical care.

On November 14, 2021, «Balkan Insight» journalists C.Ciobanu and J.Arriens were harassed by a unit consisting of Polish border guards and soldiers while staying in the area adjacent to the Polish-Belarusian border. Despite the fact that the journalists were outside the state of emergency, under threat of arrest they were required to provide the numbers of all their mobile devices, which enabled the authorities to monitor their activities.

On November 16, 2021, uniformed Polish army soldiers in an aggressive manner detained photo reporters Maciej Nabrdalik (The New York Times), Maciej Moskwa (Testigo) and Martin Divíšek (European Pressphoto Agency) near the village of Wiejki (outside the state of emergency area) while they were carrying out their professional duties. The journalists were dragged out of the car and were subjected to severe physical force and the use of obscene language. The journalists, who were not wearing outerwear, were handcuffed and held outdoors for over an hour before the police arrived. During this time, the soldiers searched the vehicle and also looked through the contents of the memory cards in the cameras, despite being clearly informed that this could violate journalistic secrecy.

On December 17, 2021, the Polish Sejm adopted amendments to the Law of the Republic of Poland on Radio and Television, restricting the possibility for foreign organizations (registered outside the European Economic Area) to act as the majority owner of Polish television companies and radio stations. These amendments are seen as "an unprecedented attack on free media".

On December 19, 2021, a protest against the bill was held in front of the Presidential Palace in Warsaw organized by the "Committee for the Protection of Democracy," whose participants (several thousand people) under the slogan "We demand a veto!" demanded an end to the assault on freedom of speech. Leaders of all the opposition parties, representatives of public organizations and journalists took part in the demonstration.



Photo: <https://oko.press/sluzby-strasza-aktywistow-karetka-wywozi-chlopaka-nocna-interwencja-kolo-mielnika/>

An Amnesty International report published on December 20, 2021 confirms the multiple expulsions of migrants and Poland's disregard for asylum procedures and human rights guarantees. Most of those who crossed the border into Poland were apprehended after just a few hundred metres by Polish border guards and deported back.

On January 11, 2022, it became known about the forcible deportation from the territory of Poland to Belarus of an 18-year-old Syrian national, named Ismail, who was in a state of extreme exhaustion and needed medical attention. The Polish border guards picked him up at night from a hospital in Siemiatycze, Podlaskie Voivodeship and push-backed him to the Belarusian side of the border.

In Poland, human rights are not respected in selected migrant detention camps, where they are held in conditions "below prison standards".

In this regard, on January 19, 2022, seven Syrians in a closed detention centre for foreigners in the village of Wędrzyn (Lubusz Voivodeship) went on a hunger strike to protest against their living conditions. Later, 130 more

people in the centre went on hunger strike to protest against the unacceptable conditions of their detention, which are an affront to human dignity. About 130 people were being held at one time in a block of 9 rooms with 5 toilets. The migrants in the centre are subjected to humiliating body searches and the fact that border guards address them by their rooms is an example of extreme dehumanisation. In addition, detainees are intimidated, guards take away their personal belongings and use pepper gas against them.

On February 12, 2022, a demonstration was held in Krosno Odrzańskie (Lubusz Voivodeship) outside the local branch of the Border Guard, where participants protested against the criminalisation of migration and demanded that no migrants be deported from Poland, that their closed type detention centres stop operating and that the process of building of the fence on the Polish-Belarusian border be stopped.

About 400 people took part in the event. The demonstration provoked a disproportionate reaction from the police, who unjustifiably used tear gas, physical force and special means against the demonstrators. Twelve protesters were detained, some of them fell to the ground and were handcuffed.

On February 15, 2022, special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, stated that human rights defenders in Poland face threats and intimidation at the border with Belarus.

On March 25, 2022, Polish police officers detained Weronika Klemba, a Polish citizen, activist of the civic initiative "Grupa Granica" and volunteer of the "Club of Catholic intellectuals", which assists migrants on the Belarusian-Polish border. After her arrest W.Klemba was prohibited from using her mobile phone, including for the purpose of informing her relatives and friends about her location. Police officers put psychological pressure on the activist, demanded to show the contents of her phone, looked through her personal correspondence in Signal and Messenger, and demanded to provide the IMEI code. After W.Klemba was taken to the police station, where she was kept in handcuffs for 46 hours, she was not allowed to call a lawyer before her first interrogation. Following the activist's request to inform her father of her detention, the police searched their flat in Warsaw. The case against W.Klemba, who faces up to eight years in prison, is currently being processed by the prosecutor's office.

Since April 2022, five Syrian nationals and one Lebanese national, who are detained in a closed migrant centre in Lesznów (Mazowieckie Voivodeship), have gone on an indefinite hunger strike to protest against their treatment "as criminals", demanding their release from detention and transfer to an open-type migration centre. According to one of the participants of the hunger strike,



Photo: <https://oko.press/galerie/nikt-nie-jest-nielegalny-brutalnie-rozpedzony-protest-pod-siedziba-sg-w-krosnie-odrzańskim/>



Photo: <https://www.facebook.com/NoBordersKatowice/posts/4721002088026286>



Polish law enforcement officers applied the so-called "push-back" procedure to him three times to the territory of Belarus, despite his holding a valid passport of a Syrian citizen and his stated intention to apply for international protection in Poland.

In April 2022, surveillance using «Pegasus» spyware was confirmed on Andrzej Malinowski, a Polish citizen, who was the head of the non-governmental organisation «Employers of Poland», a member of the Social Dialogue Council, and the representative of Polish employers in the Economic and Social Committee in Brussels and enjoyed EU immunity at the time he was subjected to illegal methods of obtaining personal information..

ROMANIA

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

ICESCR

art. 6 (the right to work)

art. 11 (the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions)

art. 12 (the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)

In Romania, impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations is still a problem. The Romanian Government does not adopt effective mechanisms of prosecution in cases of police abuse and corruption. There were credible reports from the civil society that police officers committed a number of human rights violations including cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; spread of corruption; lack of investigation and of responsibility for gender-based violence, including sexual violence; targeted persons with disabilities abuse. There were also reports from non-governmental organizations that police and gendarmerie mocked Roma and asylum-seekers with use of excessive force, including battery.

Another problem is the harsh conditions in Romanian prisons: prisons are overcrowded and do not meet international standards. Reports still of ill-treatment of detainees by prison authorities and by other detainees.

Overcrowding is also a problem, according to official data, especially in prisons that do not meet the Council of Europe standards for space per prisoner. Some prisons do not provide adequate medical care and prisoners complain about quality of food and sometimes about malnutrition. Independent media also note the excessive politicization of the press, corrupt funding mechanisms and the subordination of editorial policy to the interests of parties and employers. Representatives of journalists and civil society maintained that their freedom of expression is also narrowed by limited access to information of public interest provided by the Government and public institutions, including spending, contracts or tenders with public funding.

On December 11, 2021, the Bucharest police, at the request of Senator Diana Shoshoake (Diana Șoșoacă), detained Italian journalist Lucia Goracci and her team representing public television channel RAI. Furthermore, D.Shoshoake held the journalists in her office against their will during a prearranged interview about the senator's anti-vaccination views. Discrimination against the Roma population has continued. The absence of identity documents made it impossible for many persons of this nationality to take part in elections, to receive social benefits, health insurance, property documents as well as to participate officially in the labour market. Ethnic Hungarians also continued to report cases of discrimination related mainly to the use of the Hungarian language. In their opinion, the Government does not enforce the law which allows ethnic minorities to communicate with local authorities in their native language in localities where the minority makes up at least 20 percent of the population.



Photo: <https://www.romania-insider.com/photo-day-ro-protest-covid-pass-dec-2021>

During 2021, there were acts of anti-Semitism in Romania (according to the 2011 census, the Jewish population was 3,271). On September 12, 2021, an incident was recorded in Bystrica, where unknown persons desecrated the monument to Jews deported to Auschwitz and Birkenau.

In December 2021 dozens of people protested at the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest against legislative proposal on extending a special COVID-19 pass requirement for workplaces. Some protesters managed to get into the Senate courtyard before the security and safety service could push them back and block access to the territory to prevent protesters from entering the building. The protests were accompanied by clashes with police and damage to property – several cars in the courtyard of the Senate were mutilated with graffiti.

On May 14, 2022, 2,500 postal workers, members of the Romanian Post trade union, held a protest in front of the Government building. The main reasons for the protest were extreme poverty of the employees (80 percent of the company's staff earn on edge of the subsistence level), exclusion from the collective agreement of articles that protect jobs and employees' rights. Since May 23, 2022, employees of the National Institute of Statistics have been meeting every day in front of the office building during a 15-minute break to "discuss the pay discrimination" that they experience in comparison with other categories of civil servants. They demand to change the Law on Wages, citing higher inflation and a marked decline in purchasing power of wage.

SLOVAKIA

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

On January 19 and on February 8, 2022 thousands of Slovaks took part in the protest against the plans of the government to make a military pact with the United States. The protesters used national flags and streamers inscribed “No US bases in Slovakia”.

On February 8, 2022 the protesters gathered in front of the parliament building where the lawmakers were discussing the agreement project. The police inhibited the protesters. The opposition lawmakers interfered into the process of the parliament debates; they used whistles in order to disrupt the hearings.



Photo: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/slovaks-protest-defense-treaty-us-lawmakers-debate-82753596>



Photo: <https://newsrnd.com/news/2022-01-19-protest-against-slovakia-s-intention-to-sign-an-agreement-to-deploy-us-forces-on-its-soil.S1DM-BHat.html>



Photo: <https://translated.turbopages.org/>

SPAIN

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 6 (right to life)

art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

CRC

art. 3 (best interests of the child)

CAT

art.3 (the principle of non-refoulement)

art. 2 (prevention of acts of torture)

art. 4 (criminal prosecution of persons participating/participating in torture)

According to the Amnesty International Report 2021/2022 the instances of unnecessary and excessive use of force by the security forces continued. In June 2021, the Ministry of the Interior rejected an Ombudsman's recommendation to adopt mechanisms to prevent misallocation of ammunition and to ensure that agents can be identified.

Moreover, in November 2021, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture noted numerous credible reports of ill-treatment by prison and police officers. It also noted that the practice of mechanical fixation of people to a bed persisted, including for juvenile detainees, and recommended its abolition.

In June 2021, Jordi Cuixart and Jordi Sànchez, civil society leaders of the movement for Catalonia's independence, were released from prison following a government pardon. They had spent almost four years in detention, following an unjust conviction on sedition charges in connection with peaceful protests and the 2017 referendum on Catalan independence.

Investigations into allegations of unlawful use of force by law enforcement officials during the October 2017 protests in Catalonia remained open at the end of the year 2021. A total of 22,200 asylum seekers and migrants arrived by sea in the Canary Islands. At least 955, including at least 80 children, died at sea while attempting the journey from west African coasts. Poor management and lack of reception capacity on the islands resulted in unnecessary suffering for the refugees and migrants, including many unaccompanied children, due to avoidable overcrowding and sub-standard conditions in reception facilities.

The authorities also failed to ensure access to a fair and efficient asylum procedure. Asylum seekers could not access adequate information about their rights and the authorities did not ensure the timely registration and processing of asylum claims. By September 2021, around 1,000 unaccompanied children were awaiting assessment of their cases and documentation.

In May 2021 8,000 people, including 2,000 unaccompanied children, entered the Spanish enclave of Ceuta from Morocco irregularly, while Moroccan guards waved them in past their checkpoints. Shortly afterwards, the Spanish authorities illegally and collectively returned 2,700 people to Morocco. There were reports of excessive use of force. In August 2021, the authorities illegally returned 55 unaccompanied children to Morocco. Spanish courts deemed the returns unlawful and suspended them. Soon afterwards, however, the Prime Minister reiterated the government's intention to continue expelling unaccompanied children to Morocco. In October 2021, the government reduced the time needed for unaccompanied children to obtain a residence permit and relaxed the requirements for renewing work and residence permits after the age of 18 to prevent them losing their regularized status.



Photo [24.kz](#)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expressed profound sadness and concern at the loss of life and injuries reported during attempted crossings of the fence between Nador (Morocco) and Melilla (Spain) in June 24, 2022 when at least 23 migrants died according to Moroccan authorities. IOM and UNHCR urged all authorities to prioritize the safety of migrants and refugees, refrain from the excessive use of force and uphold their human rights.



Photo: [Javier Bernardo \(AP\)](#)

SWEDEN

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR
 art. 6 (right to life)
 art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)
 art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

CEDAW
 art. 11 (equality in employment)

CRC
 art. 3 (best interests of the child)

ICESCR
 art. 6 (the right to work)
 art. 12 (the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)

CERD
 art. 4 (the adoption of special measures with the exclusive purpose of ensuring the proper progress of certain racial or ethnic groups or individuals in need of protection)

On January 3, 2022, the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter published an article entitled "Pregnant teachers stopped from working: Discrimination". Pregnant teachers in Lund are reportedly not allowed to work because of the risk of infection during the pandemic. The teachers' union has strongly criticised these measures. It is noted that the case concerns two pregnant vaccinated teachers who were forced against their will to stop working after the 20th week of pregnancy.

In February 2022, the UN experts expressed concern about the lack of honest consultations between the Swedish Government and the Sami regarding the Kallak mine as well as the major and irreversible risks the project may bring. It is also noted that concerns have been expressed in the past that there are close ties between mining companies and high-ranking politicians, including the fact that three former ministers are currently in the management of the large Swedish mining companies.

Sweden's mineral policy strikes the indigenous Sami people. At the end of 2020, the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called on Sweden to withdraw the mining permit for the disputed nickel mine in Rönnebäcken. Sweden was also urged to amend the Minerals Act and guarantee Sami cultural rights.

On March 21, 2022, the third attack on a school in just six months took place in Malmo, during which two teachers were killed. In 2021, the number of reports to the Swedish Work Environment Agency regarding threats and violence in school was more than twice as many as ten years ago.

On April 6, 2022, it became known that the Swedish Minister of Education had urged the country's universities to stop collaborating with Russian institutions. Eight Swedish universities and colleges informed the Swedish TV channel SVT that they would not accept exchange students from Russia or Belarus in the future.

A number of universities reported that they are currently terminating their exchange agreements with Russian and Belarusian higher education institutions.

In April 2022, the Swedish news portal The Local published an article reporting that parents with Arabic-sounding names, according to a new study conducted by Uppsala University, get a less friendly response and less help when choosing schools in Sweden.



Photo: <https://sverigesradio.se/artikel/fn-experten-till-regeringen-sag-nej-till-gruvan>

The report's author, Jonas Larsson Taghizadeh said that the study had demonstrated "that responses to emails signed with Arabic names from school principals are less friendly, are less likely to indicate that there are open slots, and are less likely to contain positive information about the school".

The author of the study also notes that there is more discrimination against those with a low social-economic status job than against those with an Arabic name, with the worst affected group being those who combined the two factors.

On April 15-17, 2022, riots, in which 100-150 people took part, broke out in the Swedish cities of Linköping, Norrköping and Örebro in connection with the permission to hold rallies of the Danish-Swedish right-wing extremist Rasmus Paludan followed by the burning of the Quran. Three people were wounded by ricocheting police bullets during police efforts to dissolve the protesters.

In Jönköping, residents of the city opposed the action of Rasmus Paludan and the burning of the Quran. When Paludan began his speech, the priest Fredrik Hollertz decided to ring the church bells, thereby "silencing the politician". It is noted that many applauded the decision to ring church bells. But he has also been reported to the police for disturbing public gatherings.



Photo: <https://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/a/9K4XRE/polisen-talar-ut-efter-nattens-kaos-i-malmo>

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 14 (right to a fair trial)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

CERD

art. 2 (pursuing a policy of eliminating all forms of racial discrimination and promoting mutual understanding among all races)

On September 11, 2021, a demonstration took place in Lucerne. The police used tear gas to prevent the demonstrators from clashing with representatives of the opposite camp. In total, warnings were issued to 60 citizens, and criminal cases were initiated against the organizers for violating the law on mass events.

On September 16, 2021, an unauthorized mass demonstration took place in Bern, organized mainly through social networks. Its participants marched through the city center, chanting the slogan "Liberté!" ("Freedom!"), the name of Ueli Maurer, a member of the Federal Council from the right-wing conservative Swiss People's Party (SVP), and using noise instruments. At the same time, public transport was partially blocked. The police used special equipment - water cannons, rubber bullets and tear gas - to disperse the demonstration. The Swiss Federal President Guy Parmelin and the chairmen of both houses of parliament condemned the aggression by the demonstrators. The head of the security forces in Bern, Reto Nause, announced the successful prevention of "a possible storming of the government house." In turn, the organizers of the action condemned the actions of the police as "aggressive and disproportionate". On October 7, 2021, the police used tear gas and water cannons against the most aggressive protesters in Bern, who did not follow the calls to disperse and tried to break through the cordon, moving towards the Bundeshaus (the building that houses the federal executive and legislative bodies). In relation to 80 citizens, law enforcement agencies issued instructions to leave the scene, 9 citizens were detained for identification, and four faced charges of violating the law. One police officer was injured.



Photo:<https://www.telebaern.tv/telebaern-news/erneute-demo-der-massnahmenskeptiker-in-bern-die-grundstimmung-wird-aggressiver-warnt-der-sicherheitsdirektor-143704305>



Photo:<https://www.20min.ch/story/corona-demonstranten-wollen-polizei-sperre-bei-bundeshaus-brechen-226894179744>

On October 14, 2021, the police took preventive measures by rounding up a group of people who had gathered near the train station in Bern, including the use of tear gas and rubber bullets. The issue of possible bringing the initiators of mass unauthorized events to material liability was considered - possible monetary fines from 10 thousand to 30 thousand Swiss francs were mentioned.

On April 24, 2022, the next annual assessment report on cases of racial discrimination in Switzerland in 2021 recorded by the network of counseling centers for victims of racism was published. The report was prepared jointly by the Federal Commission against Racism and the NGO Humanrights.ch. A total of 630 cases of racial discrimination were reported in the past year. Most of the incidents occurred in workplaces and educational institutions, as well as in public spaces and during contacts with authorities. The most common forms of discrimination are verbal insults, the most common motives are xenophobia (218 cases), discrimination based on skin color (207 cases), Islamophobia, hostility towards people from Arab countries, anti-Semitism. There was also increased hostility towards immigrants from Asian countries.

On May 1, 2022, the police used rubber bullets and tear gas against around 100 participants in an unauthorized demonstration in Zurich at Helvetiaplatz who tried to break through the police barriers into the city centre. Six people were detained for using violence and threatening officials, carrying illegal weapons and obstructing the authorities.

On May 12, 2022, the Zurich cantonal police dispersed a rally at the Rümlang oil depot. All 11 climate activists between the ages of 17 and 28 from Switzerland and Germany, who tried to block the access to the site were taken to the police station for questioning. The prosecutor's office is investigating the participation in the unauthorized demonstration and other offences.

On May 21, 2022 in Basel, after two verbal warnings the police used rubber bullets against participants in an unauthorized left-wing group "Basel without Nazis" (about 40 people) who tried to prevent a rally of the right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP). The SVP event was attended by high-ranking representatives of the party, including Federal Council member Ueli Maurer.



Photo: <https://www.20min.ch/video/corona-demonstranten-brechen-absperriegitter-auf-grosse-polizeipraesenz-673331622124>



Photo: <https://www.20min.ch/story/polizisten-schlagen-auf-corona-demonstranten-ein-558924515619>



Photo: <https://www.20min.ch/story/polizisten-schlagen-auf-corona-demonstranten-ein-558924515619>

UNITED KINGDOM

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)

art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)

art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)



Photo: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/31/police-wield-batons-during-xrs-london-bridge-bus-blockade>



Photo: <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/london-london-bridge-metropolitan-police-extinction-rebellion-tower-bridge-b953109.html>

On August 31, 2021, activists of Extinction Rebellion environmental movement blocked London Bridge traffic with an open top bus. Police used batons and threw punches against the protesters.

On September 27, 2021, environmental protesters blocked part of the M25 road at Heathrow Airport. While unblocking the road police used force against the demonstrators. 53 people were arrested.

In its article "Inside Insulate Britain: on the road with the disruptive climate protesters", published on

October 17 2021, The Guardian newspaper reported that according to the group's own estimates, 124 people had been arrested 629 times in 13 actions. On October 25, 2021, activists of Insulate Britain environmental movement held a demonstration in the centre of London, blocking the traffic. During the demonstration 52 people were detained by the police.



Photo: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-58704508>

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

On February 10, 2022, the British Jewish charity Community Security Trust (CST) published a report about antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2021. The CST recorded 2255 antisemitic incidents across the UK in 2021, the highest total ever reported to the CST in a single calendar year: 3 incidents of extreme violence, 173 incidents of assault, 82 incidents of damage and desecration, 143 incidents of threat, 1844 incidents of abusive behaviour, 10 incidents of antisemitic literature. This is an increase of 34% from the 1684 antisemitic incidents recorded by the CST in 2020. 552 online incidents of antisemitism were reported.

The following international obligations have been violated:

CAT

art. 2 (prevention of acts of torture)

art. 4 (criminal prosecution of persons participating/participating in torture)

ICCPR

art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

In March 2022, a 15-year-old black schoolgirl was strip-searched in a humiliating way by police officers over unfounded suspicions she had cannabis. Her family's solicitor said race was a likely factor: "It is unlikely that the child [Child Q] would have been treated in this humiliating and degrading way had she not been black". A report by Hackney council said racism was likely to have been a factor and described the episode as "humiliating, traumatising and utterly shocking". On March 17 2022, in its article "80% of UK police accused of domestic abuse kept jobs, figures show" the Guardian newspaper reported that more than 1,000 police officers and staff accused of domestic abuse were still serving in law enforcement. In this regard, the shadow minister for domestic violence and safeguarding, Jess Phillips, said: "The police have got to undertake huge reforms to ensure women and girls feel safe and that has to start with them. When cases are brought against police officers, they must act without fear or favour, and act accordingly."

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICESCR

art. 11 (the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions)

art. 12 (the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)

On May 9, 2022, The Guardian newspaper reported that more than 2 million adults in the UK had gone without food for a whole day over the past month because they could not afford to eat, according to a survey revealing the "catastrophic" impact of the cost of living crisis. The latest survey of the nation's food intake shows a 57% jump in the proportion of households cutting back on food or skipping meals over the first three months of this year, with one in seven adults (7.3 million) estimated to be food-insecure, up from 4.7 million in January. Millions more people – including 2.6 million children – report they now have smaller meals than usual, regularly skip meals altogether or do not eat when they are hungry.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following international obligations have been violated:

ICCPR

- art. 6 (right to life)
- art. 7 (protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)
- art. 9 (the right to freedom, protection from arbitrary arrest)
- art. 14 (right to a fair trial)
- art. 19 (right to freedom of expression)
- art. 26 (the right to effective protection against discrimination on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs)

CAT

- art.3 (the principle of non-refoulement)
- art. 2(prevention of acts of torture)
- art. 4 (criminal prosecution of persons participating/participating in torture)

The unprecedented scale of the criminal prosecution of participants in the events of January 6, 2021 on the territory of the Capitol in Washington, DC demonstrates a politically motivated prosecution of opponents of the current government. Over 625 defendants have been charged with entering or remaining in a restricted federal building or grounds. Over 75 defendants have been charged with entering a restricted area with a dangerous or deadly weapon.



Photo: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-57594033>



Photo: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/26/politics/capitol-riot-investigation-congress-democrats/index.html>

Approximately 45 defendants have been charged with destruction of government property, and over 30 defendants have been charged with theft of government property. At least 270 defendants have been charged with corruptly obstructing, influencing, or impeding an official proceeding, or attempting to do so. Approximately 40 defendants have been charged with conspiracy, either: (a) conspiracy to obstruct a congressional proceeding, (b) conspiracy to obstruct law enforcement during

a civil disorder, (c) conspiracy to injure an officer, or (d) some combination of the three. Forty-five federal defendants have had their cases adjudicated and received sentences for their criminal activity. Nineteen have been sentenced to periods of incarceration.

The U.S. government fails to provide the population with adequate housing as part of the right to decent standard of living. The number of homeless people in the U.S. is astonishing. On December 7, 2021 The Washington Post reported that «homelessness is one of the United States' greatest current challenges, no matter the region». For example, on December 19, 2021 The New York Times reported that in San Francisco, one in every 100 residents is homeless.

American authorities also fail to protect the public from police violence. According to Mapping Police Violence data, at least 1,124 people were killed by police in 2021. The majority of killings occurred during non-violent offenses or when there was no crime at all.

The USA TODAY website reported that since 2015, police have fatally shot more than 6,300 people, but only 91 officers have been arrested for murder or manslaughter stemming from an on-duty shooting. That means police were arrested in a little more than 1% of fatal shootings. According to the U.S. media, in 2021, there were 693 mass shootings, up 10.1% from 2020. More than 44,000 people were killed by gun violence.

The U.S. authorities do not follow the principles of fair trial and procedures. In her recent report, Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, wrote that 38 Muslim men are still being held at Guantanamo Bay. Many of these men are entering their twentieth year in the custody of the United States. Many of the men are torture survivors. Twelve of them were charged



Photo: <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-and-the-homeless-washington-risks-people-dying-in-communal-shelters/a-52867913>

with crimes related to terrorism, and go through the system of military commissions, not civilian courts. The Special Rapporteur stressed that the conditions in Guantanamo Bay meet the threshold for torture, inhuman and degrading treatment under international law.

The U.S. authorities have failed to provide their citizens with effective healthcare protection. Despite the availability of advanced medical equipment and technology, the United States recorded the highest number of cases and deaths from COVID-19 in the world. According to Johns Hopkins University, by the end of February 2022 the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S. has surpassed 78 million and the death toll has surpassed 940,000.