



2.2.2. Anti-extremism and anti-terrorism laws

The scope of anti-extremism and anti-terrorism laws was amended in 2021.[189](#) These laws have been described as overbroad[190](#) and vague,[191](#) and are reported to be used to suppress dissent[192](#) and punish actual or perceived political opponents[193](#) as well as journalists, human rights defenders,[194](#) and civil society members.[195](#) The authorities have used anti-extremism laws against civil society representatives, including by the designation of public initiatives, their information resources, and social media accounts as extremist materials.[196](#) The use of anti-extremism laws to punish persons expressing dissent[197](#) has resulted in the situation where even reading media sources declared extremist by the authorities can lead to short-term arrest.[198](#)

The authorities maintain multiple lists that designate organisations, information resources, and individuals as extremist or terrorist.[199](#) These lists are regularly expanded, laying the grounds for continued repression.[200](#)

○ List of extremist materials

The National List of Extremist Publications and Content is maintained by the Ministry of Information.[201](#) Sources on the list are blocked. In April 2024, the presidency-controlled Operation and Analysis Center issued a directive allowing it to remove websites classified as extremist from the national domain system, effectively closing them.[202](#)

As of 31 March 2026, the list consisted of around 9 100 items,[203](#) comprising publications, webpages, and social media channels,[204](#) including by independent media and webpages of human rights groups.[205](#) This figure indicates a continued upward trend: as by 5 December 2025, Belarusian courts classified 8 172 materials as extremist,[206](#) including 1 444 in 2024[207](#) and 2 107 in 2025.[208](#) In 2024, such designation was applied for the first time to an LGBTIQ+ website as well as websites providing guidance to conscripts for military service.[209](#) In May and June 2024, the

authorities dismantled independent legal services which assisted conscripts, treating their work as a threat to national security after the Prosecutor General labelled these resources – particularly due to their advice on military service exemptions – as extremist and contrary to the national interest.[210](#) In January 2025, the civil platform ‘Convenient City/Petitions.by’, which enabled citizens to submit petitions to the authorities on local issues, was also classified as extremist.[211](#) In March 2026, a local court designated the Instagram account of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) as extremist content.[212](#)

Following, sharing, or reacting to publications and online sources designated as extremist can lead to prosecution,[213](#) resulting in administrative detention, heavy fines, and confiscation of personal devices.[214](#)

○ **The lists of extremist and terrorist formations**

This list of extremist formations is maintained by the Ministry of Internal Affairs since October 2021 and is regularly updated on its website.[215](#) The decision to designate an organisation as extremist is made by the KGB or the Ministry of Internal Affairs.[216](#) The list includes civic groups and human rights groups, media outlets, and humanitarian projects,[217](#) serving as a mechanism for criminalisation of a wide range of activism.[218](#)

There is no clear or typical profile of entities designated as extremist. In addition to major political actors, small civil society groups and even Telegram channels with low numbers of subscribers have been designated as extremist formations.[219](#) As of 16 April 2026, the list comprised 353 entities,[220](#) most of them civil society organisations and initiatives.[221](#) In March 2026, the KGB designated the Belarussian Helsinki Committee (BHC) – a human rights organisation which has been working in Belarus since 1995 – as an extremist formation, listing webpages, social media accounts and email addresses related to BHC as extremist materials.[222](#)

As explained by human rights specialist interviewed by EUAA, designation as an extremist formation particularly affects organisations, which are based abroad and work for democratisation of Belarus, including journalist associations and human rights groups. In practice, this legal framework is used to sever contacts between persons inside Belarus and those abroad, especially those who are engaged in human rights advocacy work abroad. Once designated, such entities are effectively unable to operate in Belarus, as their registration in Belarus may be revoked, bank accounts frozen, and individuals inside Belarus may face criminal prosecution for any cooperation or

communication with such entities.[223](#)

Interactions with entities or individuals designated as extremist or terrorist constitute a criminal offense.[224](#) The authorities carry out widespread prosecution of individuals who create, lead, or participate in activities of such organisations.[225](#) Criminal prosecution can also follow for any financial support to these entities, regardless of its amount.[226](#)

○ **List of persons associated with extremist activities**

The List of Belarusian Citizens, Foreign Nationals, and Stateless Persons Associated with Extremist Activities is maintained by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and consists of individuals who were convicted under extremism-related articles.[227](#) However, in practice, persons who have already served their sentences, those subjected to compulsory psychiatric measures, or those who cannot be held criminally liable due to the expiry of the five-year statute of limitations of Article 342 of the Criminal Code can also be included on the list. In such cases, 'courts may still issue a conviction-like ruling without imposing criminal liability or formally establishing guilt,' in violation of formal legal requirements.[228](#)

The scope of activities considered extremist has expanded to include any form of interaction with civil society organisations designated as extremist.[229](#) As of February 2026, the list contained the names of 6 353 individuals,[230](#) including 1 188 added in 2024.[231](#) In January and February 2026, as reported by Viasna, 155 individuals were added,[232](#) most of whom were convicted under Article 361-4, probably in connection with the Belarusian Hajun project (*Belaruski Hajun*).[233](#) For information on the case, refer to chapter [2.2.3 Criminal and administrative prosecution, d\) Prosecutions related to Belaruski Hajun case](#).

Inclusion on the extremist list entails wide-ranging restrictions, such as 'the freezing of bank accounts and transfers' and a ban on employment in public administration, education, military, healthcare, and social services. These measures remain in place for up to 5 years after a criminal record is expunged and, in practice, might be extended to 13 years after a sentence has been served.[234](#)

○ **List of persons associated with terrorist activities**

The list of individuals associated with terrorist activities is maintained by the KGB²³⁵ and is published on its Telegram channel.²³⁶ As of February 2026, it contained 1 417 individuals, including 700 Belarusian citizens. In February 2026, the list was updated twice, with one of those added being the former head of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM), who faces charges for ‘incitement of hatred.’²³⁷

As noted by a human rights specialist in an interview with EUAA, the distinction between ‘the extremist’ and ‘terrorist’ lists, is primarily procedural and relates to investigative responsibility under the Code of Criminal Procedure.²³⁸ While the lists are regularly expanded²³⁹ and formally public, updates are not always published immediately. Consequently, ‘announcements of new designations may circulate before consolidated and updated lists are fully accessible, which creates uncertainty for those trying to determine what has been designated extremist.’²⁴⁰

Compared to those on the ‘extremist list’, individuals included on the ‘terrorist list’ face more severe financial, social, and property restrictions and are also subjected to freedom of movement restrictions. In detention, the individuals included on the ‘terrorist list’ are prohibited from receiving bank transfers.²⁴¹

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