



3.2.4. The death penalty

Belarus remains the only country in Europe that applies the death penalty.^{[388](#)} In April 2024, the UN Human Rights Committee raised concerns on violations regarding the ‘right to a fair trial and right to life’ of two persons executed in 2018^{[389](#)} for six murders ‘linked to a real estate scam’.^{[390](#)} In October 2024, the Minsk Regional Court sentenced to death a person convicted of murder.^{[391](#)}

In June 2024, the Minsk Regional Court sentenced to capital punishment a German citizen^{[392](#)} after finding him guilty under six articles of the Criminal Code, including ‘terrorism’, ‘extremism’, ‘rendering transport or communication routes unusable’,^{[393](#)} ‘participation in mercenary activities’, and ‘undercover activities’.^{[394](#)} At the end of July 2024, he was pardoned by president Lukashenka and released as a part of a prisoner exchange between the Russian Federation and the US and Germany.^{[395](#)}

- [388](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of Human Rights in Belarus, 22 April 2025, [url](#), para. 16; HRW, Belarus – Events of 2025, 4 February 2026, [url](#)

- [389](#)

HRW, Belarus – Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

- [390](#)

COE, CM/Inf(2017)23 - Abolition of the death penalty - Information document by the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law on the death penalty in Belarus, 13 October 2017, [url](#)

- [391](#)

HRW, Belarus – Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

- [392](#)

HRW, Belarus – Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#); UN Human Rights Council, Report of Human Rights in Belarus, 22 April 2025, [url](#), para. 16

- [393](#)

HRW, Belarus – Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

- [394](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of Human Rights in Belarus, 22 April 2025, [url](#), para. 16

- [395](#)

HRW, Belarus – Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

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