



Index on Torture — **--94.2**

Facts and Assessments. 2019 - 2020



Population - **9 465 675**
Prison population (convicted) - 34500
In pre-trial detention (under investigation) - **5 000** (as of 2018)
Detainees (under administrative arrest) - more than **70 000**
 Law enforcement budget **1056.5 million BR** (penitentiary and police service combined)
There is death penalty in Belarus

Judgments documenting the problem of torture

Judgments and decisions of international bodies documenting the problem of torture and ill-treatment	5 (UN HRC, violations of Article 7 of the ICCPR)
Judgments of Belarusian courts	No data
Judgments excluding evidence obtained under torture	No data

Criminalization of torture and ill-treatment

Explicit prohibition of torture in criminal law	The norm is vague. There is no explicit prohibition
Criminalization of acts falling within the definition of torture	Partially criminalized
Criminalization of torture as prescribed by international treaties	None

Government body investigating allegations of torture and ill-treatment

There is a body authorized to investigate torture	No separate body. Any prosecutor or investigator of the Investigative Committee can investigate torture claims
Number of investigators	No data
Investigator workload	No data
Investigating body's jurisdiction	No data
Geographic coverage	A prosecutor's office and an Investigative Committee are present in all territorial units
Budget	Sufficient, covers all costs
Number of complaints of torture and ill-treatment	No data

Ratification of relevant international treaties

Relevant conventions	Yes, except for the ECHR and the CPT
Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2002)	Neither signed nor ratified
Istanbul Protocol	Partially implemented in national legislation

Procedural guarantees (norms)

Documenting the actual detention start time	Yes. Not always observed in practice
Lawyer notification at the actual detention start time	No. Lawyers get notified between 3-4 hours and up to 3 days following the detention start
Family notification	By law, within 12 hours
Medical examination	No. The wording of the norm makes it possible to skip a medical examination. In practice, there is usually a checkup by a health worker or questioning by the police unit chief. These actions are documented in the detention records

Preventive mechanisms

Independent external review mechanism	Available in all regions, but controlled by the authorities
Video surveillance	Continuous surveillance is available, including in private zones, but some facilities do not have it installed
Access to, and safekeeping of video evidence	Unsatisfactory