

THE BELARUSIAN ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS

Mass Media Week in Belarus

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New facts of information denied, new detentions of distributors of the press and continued court cases.

On April 23 it became known that **citizens** of Mahilou city **were ordered to remove satellite antennae**. If they refuse, they will be fined or the equipment will be removed forcefully. Orders to do so were distributed by the Housing services department No1 of Mahilou. Its head Valery Zubrytski offered the discontented citizens to connect to the cable TV.

In the meanwhile, several independent channels stopped broadcasting on cable TV in Belarus for some unclear reasons.

On April 25 Vitsebsk policemen attempted to **prevent journalists** from meeting **Lubou Kavaliova**, mother of Uladzislau Kavaliou, the man punished by death on conviction of terrorism for Minsk bomb blast. Lubou Kavaliova was offered to give a video interview for the program “Man and Law”. The meeting was arranged at her flat. But hardly had the shooting crew left the taxi, when a policeman and a man from the riot police stood in their way. The woman saw the situation through the window and went down to “free” her guests. Journalists were given way, but only after their **documents were copied**.

On April 25 the judge of the district court in Rahachou **Iryna Malashkevich** sent the administrative case of **Dzianis Dashkevich for revision**. He was accused of violating author’s and patent rights by allegedly copying 9 articles and a photo of the Chairperson of the district executive committee Victor Banchuk from the official newspaper “Svobodnaye slova” and publishing it on the website **vrogacheve.ru**. On second thoughts the plaintiff **Andrey Shyshkin** reduced the number of articles under consideration to 5 and withdrew his claims to the photo.

“The case has not been closed. I sent it for revision. I don’t know if it will be sent back to court,” said the judge Malashkevich.

On April 27 the administration of the special settlement No7 in the village of Kuplin, Pruzhany district, **held attestation of Paval Seviarynets**, political prisoner, co-chair of the Belarusian Christian Democracy party. The characteristics of Paval was positive, however he was **deprived of the possibility** to be granted **early release on parole** “because he hasn’t admitted his guilt”.

“To my mind, both the sentence and the ruling are unlawful,” says Seviarynets.

As reported **on April 27** the **prosecutor** of Krychau district **Uladzimir Tryvayla denied information** to the unregistered non-state newspaper “Volny horad” (Free city). Several times the journalists of the newspaper asked the prosecutor to tell about the situation on the results of the fight with corruption and organized crime in 2011. Each time the prosecutor refused to tell anything.

On 27 April, the police of the town of Biarozauka, Lida district, Hrodna region, **detained** the local activists of the Belarusian Popular Front Party and “For Freedom” movement **Siarhei Trafimchyk** and **Vitold Ashurak**, and **seized 800 copies of “Novy Chas”** independent newspaper. The detainees are official civil distributors of the newspaper. The activists were taken to the police station and forced to provide explanations. However, they refused to do so, as no charges were brought against them.