

Statement of BKDP Executive Committee #27

English translation of [original statement in Russian](#)

The political regime that has usurped power as a result of rigged presidential elections is brutally cracking down on participants of peaceful protests and on journalists.

Members of independent trade unions have also been subjected to repression. The former chairman of the Belarusian Independent Trade Union and the the head of the national strike committee in 1991, Nikolai Zimin, was sentenced illegally to 25 days imprisonment, and the chairman of the UMTO of the Independent Trade Union of Miners, Maksim Sereda, to 12 days. Ivan Roman, journalist and activist of the Free Trade Union of Metal Workers, was brutally beaten and fined.

We demand an end to the reprisals, including reprisals against participants in peaceful actions and against journalists; the prosecution of those responsible; and the immediate release of Nikolai Zimin and Maksim Sereda.