

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Compliance Committee of the Convention on  
Access to Information, Public Participation in  
Decision-making and Access to Justice in  
Environmental Matters  
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**Additional information on situation in Belarus concerning persecution of environmental activists and NGOs.**

Dear Mr Chairman, distinguished members of the Committee,

The Public Association Ecohome would like to inform Compliance Committee about progress on persecution of environmental activists and NGOs in Belarus.

During July 2021 a series of repressions was exercised by Belarus authorities to all kinds of NGOs: generally searches in offices, seizure of documents and arrests of activists/NGO bodies.

Some of these actions are mentioned in our *Comments on Draft report to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties on the progress by the Party concerned to implement decision VI/8c concerning compliance by Belarus* (submitted to Convention Secretariat by July 18, 2021).

Concerning NGO "Ecohome" the following steps were taken:

July 02, 2021 a letter from Ministry of Justice (dated June 22) was received with demand to present for revision a long list of documents concerning NGO activities – for example, a list of members or copies of all correspondence for three and half years by July 09, 2021.

As a result, we submitted to the MoJ demanded documents in 1124 pages (just two boxes) on July 09, 2021.

On July 22, 2021, we receive an official Caution from the Ministry of Justice that submitted documents do not comply with demands and by July 20, 2021 some changes in form of presented information should be made. Obviously it was impossible to make any corrections by July 20 because of receiving the Caution on July 22.

On July 26, 2021 at 17.59, from the telegram channel of the Press Service of the Ministry of Justice, we learn that, in his opinion, we have repeatedly violated the legislation, in connection with which the Ministry of Justice filed a claim to the Supreme Court for the liquidation of the NGO "Ecodom".

Till this moment no copy of lawsuit of official information on this case was not received by Ecohome.

On July 28, 2021 the Caution was appealed to the Supreme Court starting another case.

Other repressions our activists faced last month:

On July 9, 2021 Ms Maria Voytovich was arrested. She is environmental activist from Borovaya district.

On July 15, 2021 Mr Aliaksand Kapucki, environmental activist from Molodechno, was detained but released by evening.

On July 16, 2021 a home of Ms Marina Dubina, executive director of Ecohome, was searched. She was not at home that moment. Later police forces tried to get into Ecohome office but unsuccessfully.

On July 23, 2021 the information on liquidation of Center of environmental solutions by Minsk City Executive Committee was published.

On behalf of Ecohome NGO – probably the last message signed on behalf of this NGO –

Siarhei Mahonau

Legal advisor

August 02, 2021