

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF VIKTAR BABARYKA IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Key Dates

May 12, 2020	Viktar Babaryka publicly announces presidential ambitions on his Facebook page.
May 19, 2020	Applications for inclusion in initiative group were submitted by more than 10,000 citizens.
May 20, 2020	The Central Commission on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda (CEC) has registered an initiative group of 8094 citizens on Viktar Babaryka's promotion as a candidate for President. Eduard Babariko has been registered as the head of initiative group.
May 28, 2020	There are numerous reports appearing on the Web regarding violations of the electoral law and pressure on citizens when collecting signatures for Alexander Lukashenko.
May 29, 2020	Alexander Lukashenko, in a speech to the employees of the Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ), states that Viktar Babaryka does not have sufficient experience to govern the country and offers him to think about finding a new job after the elections. Specific names are not called, Lukashenko uses the wording: "the banker".
May 31, 2020	Viktar Babaryka publishes the Declaration on Fair Elections and promises support and protection to all citizens whose electoral rights are violated and who are under pressure during the collecting of signatures.
June 1, 2020	Viktar Babaryka files a complaint to the CEC with the requirement to check the facts of electoral laws violation by the members of initiative group on Alexander Lukashenko's promotion for President, and personally Alexander Lukashenko during his speech at MTZ.
June 4, 2020	Meeting of the CEC on consideration of the complaint of Viktar Babaryka on the facts of violation of electoral laws. The complaint was rejected as unreasoned and groundless.
June 4, 2020	Alexander Lukashenko publicly accuses Viktar Babaryka of fraud and mentions the Privat-Leasing Company. Specific names are not called, Lukashenko uses the wording "second figure".
June 4, 2020	Alexander Lukashenko publicly cites the facts of violent suppression of protests and bloodshed in the countries of the former USSR and promises to "[r]emind everyone who has forgotten about it".
June 5, 2020	Viktar Babaryka declares that the threats of bloodshed by the authorities are unacceptable and emphasizes that Belarusians are "[p]eaceful people who will not allow such treatment".

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June 10, 2020	Alexander Lukashenko publicly instructs the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Financial Investigations of the State Control Committee (SCC) "[t]o get pot-bellied bourgeois".
June 11, 2020	SCC publicly declares initiation of criminal proceedings under part 2 of article 243 ("Evasion of payment of taxes and fees in an especially large amount") and under Part 2 of Art. 235 ("Legalization of funds obtained by criminal means, on an especially large scale") of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus.
June 11, 2020	Searches are held at the head office of Belgazprombank OJSC, Privat-Leasing, Centaur and Kampari companies. Over 15 employees of Belgazprombank OJSC were detained.
June 11, 2020	Viktar Babaryka's close friends: Vladimir Drozd, Dmitry Zherdetsky and Svetlana Kupreeva were detained.
June 11, 2020	Viktar Babaryka publicly demands that the detainees shall be released immediately, declares that the money found at Vladimir Drozd and Dmitry Zherdetsky belong to him and were transferred for storage. Viktar Babaryka claims pressure on him by the authorities in a form of arrests of his relatives and friends.
June 12, 2020	The head of the SCC publicly declares Viktar Babaryka's involvement in illegal activities. No official suspicions or charges are put forward by the law enforcement agencies.
June 18, 2020	Viktar Babaryka declares the collection of more than 400 000 signatures for his nomination as a Presidential Candidate, which is the highest result for independent candidates in the history of Belarus.
June 18, 2020	Arrest of Viktar and Eduard Babaryka. The personal assistant of Viktar Babaryka, Dmitry Karako, who was in the same car with Eduard Babaryka, was also detained.
June 18, 2020	Viktar's and Eduard's Babaryka attorneys are not allowed to see the detainees. The entrance to the SCC building is closed from the inside in connection with the "conduct of exercises." At that moment, the detained Viktar Babaryka is in the building and demands seeing his lawyers. In the evening, Viktar Babaryka was transferred to the KGB jail.
June 18, 2020	The Head of SCC once again publicly announces Viktar Babaryka's involvement in illegal activities, as well as the involvement of PJSC Gazprom (Russian Federation) in the same illegal actions.
June 18, 2020	Numerous peaceful actions of solidarity are held in Minsk and other cities of Belarus demanding the release of Viktar Babaryka and other detainees.

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June 19, 2020	The Attorney General of the Republic of Belarus has publicly announced the national security threat posed by Viktor Babaryka and the need for qualifying his actions as "the creation of a criminal organization." The criminal case was transferred from the SCC to the KGB.
June 20, 2020	KGB puts forward charges against Viktor Babaryka. Details and articles of the Criminal Code are not disclosed. Attorneys are made to sign an obligation not to disclose the investigation materials, which does not allow to publicly refute the charges and effectively limits the right to proper protection of Viktor Babaryka.
June 20, 2020	On the basis of a power of attorney, the legal representative of Viktor Babaryka has submitted to the CEC all the documents necessary for registration of Viktor Babaryka as a Presidential Candidate. The CEC publicly confirms receipt of documents.
June 20, 2020	In concern of Viktor and Eduard Babaryka the measure of restraint in the form of custody is chosen. It is made in the absence of lawyers.
June 22, 2020	Viktor Babaryka's attorneys were not allowed to meet the client in the KGB jail. The refusal of admission was appealed to the Attorney General. The complaint was left without a response..
June 23, 2020	Viktor Babaryka's attorneys were not allowed to meet the client in the KGB jail. The refusal of admission was appealed to the Attorney General. The complaint was left without a response.
June 24, 2020	The Central District Court of Minsk rejects the appeal to the arrest of Viktor Babaryka. Lawyers for Viktor Babaryka are not allowed in the KGB jail to meet the client. Denial of admission is again appealed to the Attorney General's Office indicating a systematic violation of the right to legal assistance.
June 25, 2020	For the first time since the arrest, Viktor Babaryka's attorney was allowed to the KGB jail to meet with the client.
June 26, 2020	For the first time since the arrest, Eduard Babaryka's attorney was allowed to the KGB jail to meet with the client.
June 26, 2020	The Minsk city court rejects an appeal of Viktor Babaryka's against the decision of the court of the Central District of Minsk, which had refused to satisfy the complaint regarding the arrest. Viktor Babaryka's attorney had filed a complaint with the court against a preventive measure in the form of custody.
June 30, 2020	The Central District Court of Minsk rejects a complaint against a preventive measure in the form of custody.

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July 2, 2020	The Minsk City Court rejects an appeal on the decision of the Central District Court of Minsk regarding a preventive measure in the form of custody.
July 6, 2020	Filing an application to the UN Human Rights Committee on behalf of Viktor Babaryka in relation to the violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the Republic of Belarus.
July 7, 2020	Attorneys appeal the charges put forward against Viktor Babaryka to Attorney General's Office.
July 8, 2020	Attorneys apply to the investigation authorities to change the preventive measure from custody to house arrest with the right to communicate with the media, his office and voters.
July 13, 2020	UN Human Rights Committee confirms the receipt of the application (reg. no. 3788/2020) and communication with the Republic of Belarus on the issue of Viktor Babaryka's detention.
July 14, 2020	Non-registration of Viktor Babaryka as a Presidential Candidate by the Central Election Commission.
July 15, 2020	Attorneys appeal the decision of the Central Election Commission on non-registration to the Supreme Court of Belarus.
July 16, 2020	Supreme Court of Belarus refuses to register the appeal to non-registration as filed not by Viktor Babaryka personally (Viktor Babaryka is being detained by KGB).
July 17, 2020	Viktor Babaryka personally signs the appeal to the decision of the Central Election Commission on non-registration. KGB confirms forwarding the appeal to the Supreme Court of Belarus.
July 20, 2020	Attorneys appeal the refusal to register the appeal to the decision of the Central Election Commission on non-registration.