

Persecution of antinuclear activists in Belarus: facts and consequences. How ACCC case could help protect the people.

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What is the evidence of systematic persecution of antinuclear activists by the Belarusian Government?

- Numerous episodes of persecution of Belarus Antinuclear Campaign since 2008;
- Wide spectrum of methods: arrests, deportations, detainments, fines, searches, defamation, intimidations;
- Wide “target” group – people and organizations;
- Court as a link in the chain of persecution;

Government is behind it

C102 is specific precedent for post-Soviet countries!

Government is behind it

Who where persecuted?

- Local inhabitants (Nikolay Ulasevich, Ivan Kruk);
- Antinuclear activists;
- Leaders of NGOs and political parties, public campaigns (Irina Sukhy, Tatyana Novikova);
- Journalists;
- Experts, including scientists (Andrey Ozharovskiy);
- Organizations (Ecohome).

Government is behind it

Did the Government reach the aim of persecution?

- Creation of an example for others – how the story of systematic persecution could scare others (Ulasevich and Kruk);
- Using the same tools, activists use to protect themselves, or publicity is ambivalent;
- Working in the shadow or not all the methods are visible, not all the episodes could be proved (working with employers, Universities and parents);
- Something still hidden in the pocket or what more they can do?
- You ask, why people in Chernobyl country are silent about NPP construction?

Government is behind it

What can stop it?

- Publicity;
- When the aim is not reached;
- When consequences are tangible for the abusers;
- International solidarity;
- Compliance mechanism itself;
- New tools (procedure or body) of quick reaction in Convention mechanism. We need it because there are no tools on national level. The courts work against us!

Government is behind it

Conclusions

- Compliance mechanism is important for protection of activists. There are no other tools or factors in framework of the Convention!
- We welcome the ACCC decision on c102, but we regret that there still are some facts in the same chain which were not considered as persecution.
- We suggest that the MOP recommend that Belarus abolish its decisions on arrests and other ways of harassing activists;
- We regret that there is a new case on Belarus NPP construction, it shows that situation is not better, but worse.

Government is behind it

Thank you for your attention!

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