



3.3.1 Forced psychiatric treatment

Belarusian courts reportedly use coercive psychiatric treatment against individuals expressing dissent.⁴³¹ Between 2020 and 31 December 2025, at least 39 individuals were subjected to this practice related to politically motivated cases,⁴³² such as for participation in protests, insulting the president or government officials, terrorism, and promoting extremist activities.⁴³³ Court decisions to transfer individuals to psychiatric hospitals were reportedly made in closed doors proceedings,⁴³⁴ as courts classified them under Article 6 (13) of the Criminal Procedure Code as having ‘committed socially dangerous acts’.⁴³⁵

Individuals subjected to coercive treatment are reportedly held *incommunicado* in mental health facilities. Unlike prisoners in penitentiary system, they may be detained for indefinite periods and are not eligible for parole, amnesty, or pardon.⁴³⁶

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UN Human Rights Council, Report of Human Rights in Belarus, 22 April 2025, [url](#), para. 3

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Viasna, Human rights situation in Belarus in 2025, 13 January 2026, [url](#)

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UN Human Rights Council, Report of Human Rights in Belarus, 22 April 2025, [url](#), para. 37; UN OHCHR, Belarus: Experts alarmed at reports of coercive psychiatric treatment as punishment for political dissent, 24 April 2025, [url](#)

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UN Human Rights Council, Report of Human Rights in Belarus, 22 April 2025, [url](#), para. 37; UN OHCHR, Belarus: Experts alarmed at reports of coercive psychiatric treatment as punishment for political dissent, 24 April 2025, [url](#)

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UN Human Rights Council, Report of Human Rights in Belarus, 22 April 2025, [url](#), para. 37

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UN Human Rights Council, Report of Human Rights in Belarus, 22 April 2025, [url](#), para. 37; UN OHCHR, Belarus: Experts alarmed at reports of coercive psychiatric treatment as

punishment for political dissent, 24 April 2025, [url](#)

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