

Press Release

The funds raised by the online solidarity marathon "We Do Care!" for Belarusian political prisoners have been distributed in full and in accordance with the purpose stated

All organizations that acted as marathon partners have been audited to the satisfaction of the marathon's Supervisory Board. Earlier, the May 21 Foundation, which accumulated and distributed the funds raised during the marathon, also passed the audit successfully.

HOW MUCH MONEY HAS THE MARATHON RAISED?

EUR 563,101.99 is the total amount received from cards through Stripe and PayPal. The fees charged for Stripe and PayPal payments amounted to EUR 17,161.77. Apart from that, EUR200 of the total amount was withdrawn by the donors (an option provided by Stripe).

As a result, the May 21 Foundation received a total of EUR 545,740.22, and EUR 12,180.51 was received in cryptocurrency.

The total amount including cryptocurrency funds was EUR 557,920,73.

The marathon has helped over 900 political prisoners.

HOW WERE THE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED?

A special **Supervisory Board** composed of media representatives and marathon organizers was established to control the distribution of the donations collected.

1. Igor Kuley, the head of the news department of *Belsat* TV channel
2. Fyodor Pavlyuchenko, editor-in-chief of *Reform.news*
3. Pavel Marinich, the head of *Malanka Media*
4. Aliaksandra Pushkina, Board member of Zerkalo
5. Volha Siamashka, editor-in-chief of *Radio Unet*
6. Volga Gorbunova, the representative for social policy of the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus
7. Kirill Danko, the former editor-in-chief of the *MKB* Telegram channel (he has an advisory vote)

8. Viktor Malishevsky, media manager, the former editor-in-chief of *KYKY.ORG*

9. Pavel Sviardlou, editor-in-chief of *Euroradio*

The Supervisory Board had an opportunity to monitor all calculations, including bank charges and the overall account balance.

HOW MUCH DID THE FOUNDATIONS RECEIVE?

Dissidentby, a human rights initiative supporting political prisoners, received EUR 28,000
The audit has been completed. The first audit was conducted by Igor Kuley; the second audit was conducted by Fyodor Pavlyuchenko.

The Charity Foundation *Strana dlya Zhizni*, received EUR 60,000
The audit has been completed, with Pavel Marinich acting as the auditor.

Belaruskaya Rada Kultury (Belarusian Culture Board) received EUR 15,000
The audit has been completed, with Viktor Malishevsky acting as the auditor.

The *BY_help* initiative received EUR 208,271.63. It also obtained all cryptocurrency funds raised (equivalent to EUR 12,180.51)
The audit has been completed, with Pavel Sverdlov acting as the auditor.

The Belarusian Association of Political Prisoners *DA VOLI* received EUR 40,000
The audit has been completed, with Aleksandra Pushkina acting as the auditor.

Razam, a foundation helping Belarusians in Lithuania, received EUR 28,800
The audit has been completed, with Olga Semashko acting as the auditor.

The Belarusian Solidarity Foundation *BYSOL* received EUR 100,000
The audit has been completed, with Aleksandra Pushkina acting as the auditor.

The *Anarchist Black Cross – Belarus* received EUR 40,000
The audit has been completed, with Olga Semashko acting as the auditor.

Littouwin *LIONS CLUB*, a charity organization, received EUR 15,000
The audit has been completed, with Viktor Malishevsky acting as the auditor.

Palitvyazynka, a media project supporting Belarusian female political prisoners, received EUR 5,000
The audit has been completed, with Igor Kuley acting as the auditor.

The Medical Solidarity Fund of Belarus received EUR 5,000

The audit has been completed, with Fyodor Pavlyuchenko acting as the auditor.

An amount of EUR 545,071.63, or 99.9% of the funds credited to the account of the May 21 Foundation was withdrawn from the account for further distribution. The fee amounted to EUR 668.59, or 0.1% of the amount credited to the account of the May 21 Foundation. The funds distributed in cryptocurrency amounted to EUR 12,180.51.

Thus, the total amount provided to political prisoners was EUR 557,252.14.

HERE ARE SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE MARATHON

Over 11,000 people participated in the fundraising effort, making a total of 14,655 donations.

A common donation amount was EUR 23.34, as a reminder of the number of the article in the Administrative Offense Code under which Belarusians were frequently detained.

On July 29, donations were coming in every 4 seconds, and on July 30, they were coming in every 20-30 seconds.

Donations were made from 86 countries around the world. The top 5 countries by donation amount are:

Poland – EUR 200,563

США – EUR 89,740

Литва – EUR 55,130

Германия – EUR 39,131

Великобритания – EUR 25,790

The largest donation was EUR 10,000 (Great Britain).

REACTION OF THE REGIME

On August 29, 2023, the Central District Court of Minsk classified the video recordings of the solidarity marathon as extremist materials. The corresponding entries were made in the list maintained by the Ministry of Information.

On October 3, 2023, law enforcement agencies initiated a criminal case against the organizers and participants of the live broadcast of the marathon. The proceedings were brought under Part 2 of Article 361-2 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (for financing extremist activities). Approximately 60 people, including both participants and organizers of the marathon, are considered suspects in the case.

WHAT IS THE ONLINE SOLIDARITY MARATHON "WE DO CARE!"?

It is a large-scale fundraising campaign for Belarusian political prisoners and their families, which lasted from July 29 to July 30, 2023.

The marathon was initiated by Olga Gorbunova, the representative for social policy of the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus. She established the May 21 Foundation ("Gegužės 21") and, together with her team, made the arrangements required to develop the concept, find partners, and secure payment tools. The May 21 Foundation became a unified wallet that received and distributed money among partner funds and organizations.

Belarusian independent mass media and human rights organizations acted as marathon partners. The media were responsible for conducting the marathon, while the human rights organizations handled the distribution of the collected funds.

Olga Gorbunova: *"We have made everything as transparent as possible. People uniting in solidarity was, in fact, the most valuable accomplishment. As long as there is at least one political prisoner in Belarus, we do care".*