



## **Statement**

Of the Coordination Committee of the Belarusian National Platform  
of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum  
in connection with the detentions and searches  
of the editorial offices of the TUT.BY portal

Minsk

May 18, 2020

On May 18 TUT.BY editors and journalists of Minsk and regional editorial offices were searched and detained by officers of the Department of Financial Investigations of the State Monitoring Committee. The officers of the mentioned state body seized the equipment and documents found in the editorial offices and staff's privately owned apartments. The searches took place in the editorial offices of structural subdivisions of TUT.BY: AV.BY, RABOTA.BY. The portal of TUT.BY has been blocked by the Ministry of Information since then.

On May 18 2021 the Department of Financial Investigations of the State Monitoring Committee initiated criminal proceedings against the officials of the "Tut By Media" LLC on the grounds of the crime specified under Part 2 of Article 243 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (large scale evasion of taxes and fees).

A widow of the founder of the portal Yuri Zisser, Julia Chernyavskaya suffers from a hypertensive crisis and is in hospital under escort now.

The Belarusian portal TUT.BY is the largest information portal and flagship of the Belarusian journalism. It is read and appreciated by most Internet users in the country and by many abroad. Editors and journalists of TUT.BY have demonstrated high-profile journalistic professionalism in their work throughout the existence of the portal.

The Coordination Committee of the Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum demands an immediate cessation of the attack on TUT.BY, AV.BY, RABOTA.BY and repressions against journalists and media in Belarus. The freedom of media must be ensured and criminal prosecution – stopped.

*Coordination Committee of the Belarusian National Platform  
of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum*

