

# FAR-RIGHT CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE

monitoring results  
first half of 2020

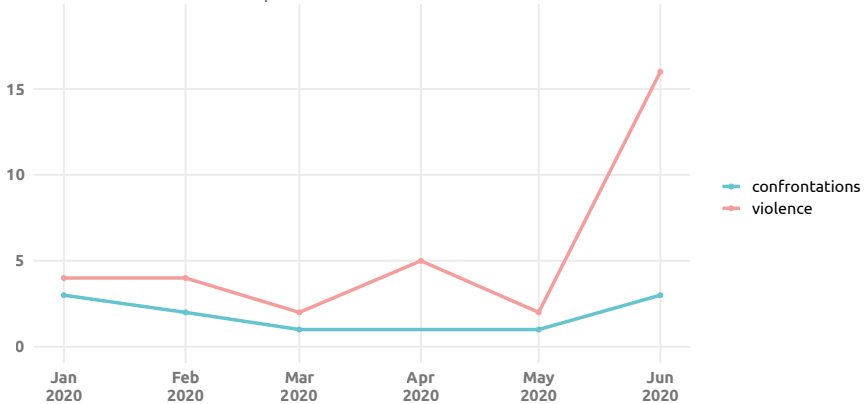


Between January and June 2020, there was a decrease in the level of far-right violence and confrontations, which was then followed by a record surge of violence in June. Just like earlier, the main groups which were targeted by the street activities of the far-right are still their political and ideological opponents, as well as vulnerable groups. At the same time, a certain “specialization” can be observed among the far-right: some organizations use force methods in their political struggle, others try to control the streets and suppress ideological and grassroots opposition.

In the first half of 2020, the Marker Monitoring Group\* **recorded 43 cases of violence\*\* and confrontation\*\*\* by the far-right** (including 33 cases of violence and 10 cases of confrontation), which is one case more than in the previous half a year. At least in 20 cases, **there were reports about victims**.

### Surge of far-right violence in June

Number of recorded cases per month in the 1st half of 2020



Data for October 2018 – June 2020

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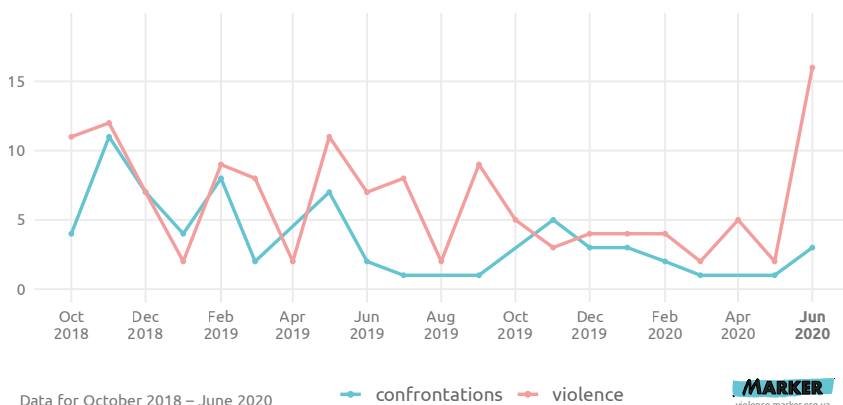
The quarantine had an effect on the far-right activities as well: while in January–February 2020, 6–7 cases were recorded, in March–May, their monthly number fell to 3–5 cases. However, already in June 2020, the number of cases of far-right violence and confrontations spiked, reaching 19 cases, of which 16 were violent. This is **the record monthly number of cases of far-right violence** recorded since the beginning of the monitoring (October 2018).

In addition, there is a tendency **for the ratio of violence to confrontations to increase**. For instance, in the first half of 2019, violent cases constituted 63%; in the second half of 2019, they constituted 76%; and in the first half of 2020, 79% of the recorded cases were violent. On the one hand, this may indicate that the media pay more attention to violence by the far-right and report about their street confrontations less and less. However, it is also possible that the far-right are starting to prefer violence more often in the cases which they handled with confrontations before.

These data may signify that after a period of relative calm, we are observing the beginning of a new round of far-right violence in Ukrainian streets.

### Record number of cases of far-right violence in June 2020

Number of recorded cases per month in the whole monitoring period



## WHO IS THE TARGET OF FAR-RIGHT VIOLENCE AND CONFRONTATIONS?

In the first half of 2020, just like in the whole monitoring period, the recorded cases of far-right violence and confrontations were mostly aimed against **politicians and political parties**. In the past half-year, 12 cases of violence against them were recorded; in 9 cases, this violence was aimed at people. In the previous half-year, only 7 such cases were recorded in total.

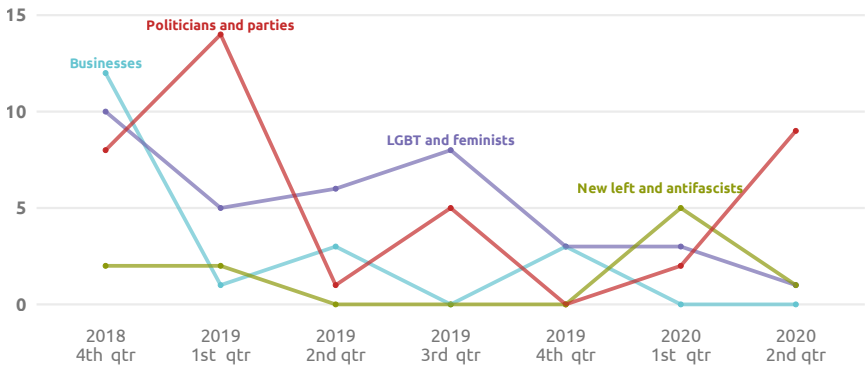
In the first half of 2020, 58% of cases of violence and confrontation against politicians and parties were aimed against the supporters of Shariy's Party\*\*\*\*. The situation escalated after the demonstration **on June 17, 2020**, where the party demanded an investigation into the attacks on its members. The National Corps, C14, Demsokryra and Sokil organized a counter-event where they initiated confrontations, threw eggs at their opponents, used smoke bombs and tear gas. The police

arrested 15 people. Later, in the subway, there were several confrontations between the participants of the demonstration and the far-right. After the demonstration, the far-right announced a “safari” on social media, calling for attacks against supporters of Shariy’s Party, and even promised a monetary reward. In the following two weeks, the media reported a number of such attacks. For instance, **on June 24, 2020, in Kharkiv**, unidentified individuals beat the head of the local party chapter with bats; the victim ended up in intensive care. A few hours before the attack, he wrote a report to the police about threats from the local National Corps.

Just like throughout the whole monitoring period, the second most frequent situations are cases of violence and confrontation against the **LGBT and feminists**: in the period between January and June 2020, 7 such cases were recorded, including 5 violent cases, of which 4 targeted people. In general, the number of cases decreased slightly compared to the previous half-year, when as many as 15 were recorded. But it should be noted that in this half-year, the LGBT community did not organize street pride events, which are the most frequent targets of far-right mobilization and violence. In addition, the decrease is not as radical if we add here the 3 cases when right-wing radicals attacked **teenagers with “subcultural appearance,”** accusing them of belonging to the LGBT community specifically (all these cases were violent).

### Whom the far-right activities targeted

Number of recorded cases of violence and confrontation by quarter for the whole monitoring period



Data for October 2018 — June 2020



**On June 12, 2020, in Podil in Kyiv**, members of Tradition and Order attacked activists of the Feminist Workshop and FemSolution who were taking homophobic posters down from a fence. The activists were insulted, pushed, threatened with beating, one of them was hit on the face. **On June 19, 2020**, there was a far-right action, an “agitraid,” involving Tradition and Order, the National Resistance, Freikorps and Brotherhood. At approximately the same time, at least 2 attacks on teenagers were recorded. They were threatened, beaten, tear gas was used against them; they were accused of belonging to the LGBT community because of the girls’ brightly dyed hair, boys’ long hair, piercing.

The number of cases of far-right street violence/confrontations aimed against **left-wing and anti-fascist activists** has increased. In the past half-year, 6 cases were recorded — as many as in the whole previous monitoring period. Half of these 6 cases were violent, and in two of them the violence was aimed against people.

**On January 19, 2020, in Kyiv**, left-wing and antifascist activists held the traditional demonstration against far-right violence. The counter-protest was attended by Tradition and Order and the National Resistance: they threw eggs, rocks and fireworks at people. 11 attackers were arrested and released after misdemeanor reports on them were written by the police. When the demonstration ended, the far-right visited the office of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung in Ukraine, tore down the sign and painted the Foundation’s front door. In addition, a confrontation with a person whom the far-right mistook for a left-wing activist was reported; they humiliated and threatened this person.

Another 6 of the recorded cases of violence and confrontations targeted **migrants and ethnic minority members**, of which 5 contained elements of violence, with 2 aimed against people. In the past half-year, 5 such cases were recorded in total.

**On April 29, 2020, in Kyiv**, at around 5 a.m., unidentified individuals broke into a tent where a Romani family lived. They sprayed tear gas, beat the man and threatened the pregnant woman with rape.

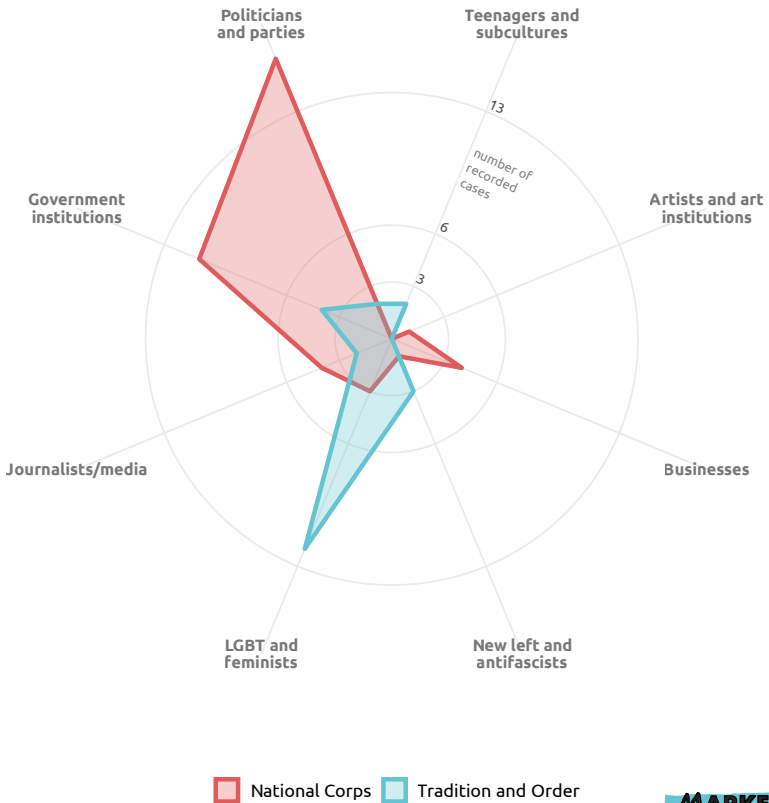
In addition, 5 recorded cases of far-right activities targeted **journalists/media** (2 of them violent against people). In particular, reporters for ZIK, NewsOne, Strana, Vesti, Shariy.net, and Dmytro Gordon’s office were attacked by the far-right.

Another 6 cases targeted **government institutions or law enforcement agencies** (all of them violent, aimed against people), and 3 cases targeted **religious institutions** (all of them violent, 1 aimed against people).

# FAR-RIGHT ORGANIZATIONS IN STREET VIOLENCE AND CONFRONTATION

Among the far-right organizations and groups reported as participants of violence and confrontations, **the most active** in the first half of 2020 were the National Corps (9 cases, of which 8 were violent, all aimed against people), Tradition and Order (6 cases, all of them violent, 5 aimed against people), National Resistance (4 cases, all of them violent, 3 against people) and C14 (3 cases, 1 violent against people). Other organizations and groups were identified in fewer than 3 cases of violence or confrontation each.

## Who was targeted by the activities of the National Corps and Tradition and Order



Data for October 2018 – June 2020

A clear distribution of the “spheres of interest” can be observed between the organizations mentioned above. For instance, 78% of the recorded activities of the National Corps in the first half of 2020 targeted **politicians or parties**. This constitutes 58% of all cases of violence or confrontation against this group reported in this period. In total, throughout the monitoring period, the National Corps was involved in 37% of all recorded cases of violence and confrontation against politicians and parties, and 40% of the National Corps’ activities in the whole monitoring period targeted this group. It should be noted that the “primacy” in this category of attacks and confrontations was taken over by the National Corps from C14, whose activities sharply declined since the beginning of 2019.

Meanwhile, in the first half of 2020, all 6 recorded cases involving **Tradition and Order** were related to violence against the **LGBT or feminists (as well as “subcultural” youth), leftists or antifascists**. This is almost a half of the recorded confrontations and violence against these groups in the first half of 2020. In the whole monitoring period, in 34% of the discovered cases of violence or confrontation against the LGBT, feminists, “subcultural” youth, leftists and antifascists, it was reported that Tradition and Order was involved. In the whole monitoring period, 80% of all recorded activities of Tradition and Order targeted these groups in particular.

C14, which is responsible for the highest number of cases of violence recorded in the observation period since October 2018, practically did not actively participate in violent actions in the first half of 2020. This organization’s violent activities, at least under the C14 brand, have been falling since early 2019. Today, its members are involved in the work of the Municipal Guard and Municipal Watch of Kyiv. The latter’s members were involved in joint patrols with the national police during the quarantine, and have kept watch at the Kyiv Railway Station, where, according to statements by the “watchmen” themselves, they actively fight against “hobos” and “Gypsies.”

To sum up, it can be said that the National Corps actively uses violence and confrontations in political struggle, while Tradition and Order, together with the National Resistance, try to promote a radical right-wing conservative agenda and to suppress street resistance to the far-right’s activities by force.

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\* Since the beginning of 2020, the Marker Monitoring Group has collected and systemized information about street violence and confrontations by right-wing radical groups, parties, organizations and citizens, including attacks motivated by hate (in 2019, the group conducted the monitoring together with Institute Republica NGO). The database of far-right violence and confrontations is created on the basis of daily monitoring of reports in national, macroregional, activist websites and social media. The monitoring is conducted with support from the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung in Ukraine.

\*\*\* Violence refers to protest activities and hate-motivated activities during which actions are committed which aim to directly harm people or property; violence against people (attacks, beatings, fights, shootings, murders, etc.) and violence that aims to damage property (arson, destruction of property, vandalism, etc.) should be distinguished separately.

\*\*\*\* Confrontations are protest activities and hate-motivated activities during which direct pressure is put on people, but which do not aim to directly harm people or property: blocking, pushing, occupying premises, preventing an event from happening without direct assault, etc.

\*\*\*\*\* A party created by the Ukrainian YouTube blogger Anatoliy Shariy. In Ukraine, he is often called out as pro-Russian, but the blogger himself regularly denies it. Shariy was an active critic of the Maidan protests, of the ATO and UFO in the East, which he considers to be a civil war, and of the political team that came to power after the Maidan victory. Today, Shariy also actively criticizes the current president Volodymyr Zelensky. After the party was created, its activists were attacked multiple times, and reporters for the publication Shariy.net have regularly been prevented from engaging in journalistic activities.

The report has been produced by the Far-Right Violence Monitoring Group. Since October 2018, we have been working to collect and systemize the data on far-right violence and confrontations in Ukraine. Our goal is to analyze the activities of xenophobic, antidemocratic and violent organizations and initiatives on the right-wing spectrum which commit hate crimes, attacks, and resort to pressure on their political opponents, minorities and vulnerable groups. The systematic coverage of these problems aims to prevent the spread and normalization of far-right ideas and crimes, which pose a threat to the freedom of speech and self-expression and to the democratic process in Ukraine. On our website, [Marker](#), you will find the results of the annual monitoring report, the description of the methodology used to conduct the research, case files on far-right organizations whose participation in violent or confrontational actions we have recorded, our own articles and selections of links to journalistic articles, scientific studies and reports by other organizations on the activities of the far-right in Ukraine.

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