

Since the beginning of an authoritarian rule in half of the 1990s most news heard about Belarus have been linked to persistent effort of the ruling elite to silence voices of disagreement inside the Belarusian society. The purpose of this essay is to identify how this effort evinces in the non-government non-profit sphere, particularly in the legal documents dealing with civic associations and their use by the state bodies. I argue that not all civic organizations experience the same level of violation of their right to association and that certain means used to diminish the NGOs did not meet their goals and led to unpredicted and unwanted consequences.