

Prominent Journalist Alexander Alesin Detained in Belarus

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Alexander Alesin

MINSK — Belarusian police say a prominent journalist who has been missing for nearly two weeks is being held in jail.

Alexander Alesin, a military analyst for a well-known weekly newspaper, has been missing since Nov. 25 when he was reportedly snatched in a cafe in the capital Minsk by unknown men.

His newspaper, *Belarusians and the Market*, told The Associated Press that they have been notified by the KGB police agency that Alesin is being held in a Minsk jail. They were not informed what charges he faces.

The KGB declined to comment on details of the case when contacted by The Associated Press.

The Belarusian government has been criticized for years for cracking down on independent media and non-governmental human rights organizations.

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