

Two Said Nursi followers in pre-trial detention

HRWF (25.01.2016) - Komil Odilov and Yevgeny Kim, two followers of Turkish theologian Said Nursi, were arrested in December 2015 and are still in pre-trial detention on "extremism" criminal charges.

Odilov, a cleric at the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Asiatic Russia, was arrested on 6th December 2015. An investigation was opened under Criminal Code Article 282.2, Part 1 ("Organisation of an extremist organisation"). On 11th December, he was charged with organising a "cell" of the banned "extremist" organisation Nurdzhular and ordered to be detained until 1 February 2016.

Imam and teacher Komil Odilov has been charged for the second time with organising "extremist" activity in Novosibirsk. He was then sentenced to a one-year suspended sentence for alleged "extremist" activity.

Yevgeny Kim was arrested on 26th December 2015, when he and his friends, including their children, had gathered at Kim's home to celebrate the birthday of the Muslim Prophet Mohammed. The charges are the same as for Odilov.

The Said Nursi teachings do not advocate violence and are not considered extremist by human rights organizations.

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