

Religious cleansing going on at full speed

HRWF (11.08.2017) - In the name of the "concept of spiritual security" and on the basis of its "anti-missionary legislation", Russia is violating one of the most fundamental rights to religious freedom that was however fully recognized by the European Court of Human Rights in the case Kokkinakis v. Greece in 1993: The right to share one's beliefs with others.

All sorts of religious communities and their members are now persecuted and prosecuted on a scale that has had no equivalent since the Cold War as it is highlighted by a remarkably documented report of Victoria Arnold published on 9 August by Forum 18.

180 individuals and communities brought to court in one year

Forum 18 (09.08.2017) – <http://www.forum18.org> - More than 180 individuals and communities have been brought to court in the year since "anti-missionary" punishments came into force on 20 July 2016. Forum 18's list of known cases documents the wide range of people and communities across Russia subjected to such punishments.

More than 180 cases to punish individuals and communities for violating Russia's "anti-missionary" restrictions are known to have reached court in the year since they came into force on 20 July 2016.

Prosecutions under Administrative Code Article 5.26, Parts 3, 4, and 5 have steadily increased throughout this 12 month period.

Article 5.26, Part 3 punishes "Implementation of activities by a religious organisation without indicating its official full name, including the issuing or distribution, within the framework of missionary activity, of literature and printed, audio, and video material without a label bearing this name, or with an incomplete or deliberately false label".

Article 5.26, Part 4 punishes "Russians conducting missionary activity". **Part 5** punishes "Foreigners conducting missionary activity".

Forum 18 found 181 cases against 129 individuals and 52 religious communities which reached court between 20 July 2016 (when the amendments entered legal force) and 20 July 2017. Of these, 133 resulted in initial convictions, with 130 fines being imposed. Of the foreigners prosecuted, 5 were ordered deported (though one of these had the deportation order overturned on appeal). More than half the regions in Russia have seen at least one prosecution. Russian citizens comprise the majority of defendants.

Russia has also imposed this legislation in Crimea, which it occupied in March 2014. Forum 18 found 27 administrative cases in the year of the "anti-missionary" punishments there, resulting in fines in 16 of the cases so far. (...)

All communities are concerned or under threat

As the cases hereafter clearly show, all religious denominations and their members are concerned, except the Russian Orthodox Church/ Moscow Patriarchate: Jehovah's Witnesses, Protestants (Evangelicals, Pentecostals, Baptists, Seventh-Day Adventists and others), Muslims, Buddhists, Salvation Army, Jews, Hare Krishna devotees, some Orthodox Churches not affiliated to the Moscow Patriarchate, Mormons, etc.

Most of these communities have been attacked for years by Orthodox antisect organizations in Russia and in particular by Alexander Dvorkin, vice-president of the

FECRIS (European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Cults and Sects), which is massively funded by the French government.

The religious repression also targets foreigners from various countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, India, Nigeria, South Korea, Ukraine and United States.

The cases listed below come from the report of Victoria Arnold. She has documented each of them with the data that she has managed to collect. Her full report is available at http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306.

Human Rights Without Frontiers has widely documented the cases of the Danish Jehovah's Witness **Dennis Christensen**, currently in pretrial detention for six months, and of several members of the Church of Scientology, also in pretrial detention for several months: **Anastasia Terentieva, Galina Shurinova, Ivan Matsitskiy and Sakhil Aliev**. (See HRWF Database of documented of religious prisoners of all faiths at <http://hrwf.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Russia-FBL-2017.pdf>)

Human Rights Without Frontiers also organized a conference on religious freedom in Russia at the European Parliament on 6 June to alert the EU and its member states about the ban of Jehovah's Witnesses and to raise to the alarm bell concerning the situation of religious non-Orthodox minorities in Russia.

Cases under Article 5.26, Part 3

Administrative Centre of the New Apostolic Church in Russia
Sharypovo Jehovah's Witness community
Igor Osipenko, Jehovah's Witness
Jehovah's Witness community, Khabarovsk
Jehovah's Witness community of Zelenogorsk
Word of Life Pentecostal Church, Samara
Salvation Army
Vitaly Shmidt, pastor
Salvation in Jesus Evangelical Church
Faith, Hope, Love Seventh-day Adventist Church
Nizhny Tagil Evangelical Christian Church
Siberian Christian Mission of Mercy
Aksyonovo Muslim community
Good News Evangelical Church
Glorification Evangelical Church, Sharypovo
Aleksandr Mikhailov, pastor
Tauba Muslim community
Ramazan Muslim community
Dzhuma Muslim community
Oleg Gorobets, pastor of Rebirth Baptist Union Church, Samara
A.V. Tselykh (unknown Christian denomination)
Al-Radzhah Muslim community, Belozerye village
Al-Furkan Muslim community, Belozerye village
Andrei Okhapkin, chair of Kineshma Jehovah's Witness community
House of Life Evangelical Church, Vladivostok
Presbyterian Spiritual Seminary
Light of Truth Pentecostal Church, Bryansk
House of Prayer Evangelical Church
Antioch Baptist Union Church, Chita
Central Nizhny Novgorod Jehovah's Witness community
Jesus Christ Pentecostal Church, Nizhny Tagil
Pentecostal Church of the Last Time
Salsk Jehovah's Witness community

Source of Life Pentecostal Church
Ildar Urazbakhtin, chair of Boguchany Jehovah's Witness community
Ivanovo Jehovah's Witness community
Ernist Mikhailov, chair of Jewish community Among Your Own
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)
Glory of God Pentecostal church, Syktyvkar
New Testament Evangelical Church
Embassy of Christ Union of Evangelical Churches in Nizhny Novgorod Region
Salvation in Jesus Evangelical Church
Embassy of Christ Biblical Centre, Nizhny Novgorod
V.M. Maltsev (Association of Local Churches of Evangelical Christians)
Liberation in Jesus Evangelical Church
Light of Christ Pentecostal Church, Nizhny Novgorod
Transfiguration Evangelical Church
Voice of Hope Evangelical Church
Dmitry Taranenko, chair of Chelyabinsk Jehovah's Witness community
Among Your Own [Sredi Svoikh] Jewish community
Makhalla-Mosque No. 2230, Korkino
Baptist Union Church of Vanino

Cases under Article 5.26, Part 5 ("Foreigners conducting missionary activity")

Donald Ossewaarde, **American** independent Baptist preacher legally resident in Russia (He filed a complaint with the European Court)
Ebenezer Tuah, **Ghanaian** Christ Embassy Protestant leader
Kalsang Dkhondul, "**stateless** person"
Irina Tishchenko, **Ukrainian** New Generation Pentecostal pastor
William Curtis Norton, Jr., **American** charged with preaching at a Seventh-day Adventist meeting
Ts. Kus, **Foreign** citizen, Jehovah's Witness
Victor-Immanuel Mani, **Indian** Protestant Christian (with right of residence in Russia)
Vladimir Sukhanov, **Ukrainian** citizen – religious affiliation unknown
A.V. Rudenko, **foreign** citizen, [priest of an unregistered \(unidentified\)](#) religious association
Consmance Maziku, citizen of **Democratic Republic of Congo**, student and member of the Kirov Evangelical Bible Church
Issa Salifu, **Ghanaian**
V.Ye. Maslova, **Ukrainian** Jehovah's Witness
Clever Ogenerobo Light, a **Nigerian** student at Kursk State Medical University; affiliated with Protestant Dunamis International Gospel Centre
Eun Chul Sin, **South Korean** pastor of Protestant Good News church
Zh.Yu. Ong, **South Korean** Protestant pastor

Cases under Article 5.26, Part 4 ("Russians conducting missionary activity")

Aleksei Teleus, Baptist Union pastor
Vadim Sibiryev, Hare Krishna devotee
Aleksandr Yakimov, New Generation Pentecostal leader
Archbishop Sergei Zhuravlyov, Ukrainian Reformed Orthodox Church
Geshe Gualtso Dakpa, Buddhist monk (Indian-born, but a Russian citizen), director of "Centre for the Teachings of Nagarzhuna" in Kyzyl
Ivan Denisov, Protestant leader (House of the Potter Church)
S.P. Kozin, Jehovah's Witness
Mayma Seventh-day Adventist Church
Andrei Matyuzhov, New Generation Pentecostal pastor
Ivan Kumbrasyev, Protestant pastor

I.V. Parmon, Jehovah's Witness
S.A. Furman, Jehovah's Witness
Ivan Denisov, Protestant leader (House of the Potter Church)
Olga Matyuzhova, New Generation Pentecostal pastor
L.G. Pyshnaya, Jehovah's Witness
Andrei Puchkov, Hare Krishna devotee
Vasili Zaitsev, Protestant
Yuri Dachev, Word of Life Pentecostal Church pastor
V.S. Sidorov, Baptist
Exodus Evangelical Church
Andrei Sysolyatin, Hare Krishna devotee
Andrei Puchkov, Hare Krishna devotee
Alekssei Mokiyev, Protestant
Konstantin Petrenko, Council of Churches Baptist pastor
Dmitry Ugai, Hare Krishna devotee and yoga teacher
Ilya Matveyev, Hare Krishna devotee
Name: R.G. Gasanaliyev, Protestant
Pyotr Yemelevsky, Hare Krishna devotee
T.I. Sukhanova, Jehovah's Witness
Mikhail Ishenin, Jehovah's Witness
Vitaly Ryazanov, Baptist pastor
T.V. Lipishina, Jehovah's Witness
Nizhny Tagil Evangelical Christian Church, organisation also convicted under Part 3 (see above)
Vilyuchinsk Jehovah's Witness community
Sergei Seleznyov, Jehovah's Witness
Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky Jehovah's Witness community
O.M. Rakhimkulov, Baptist
Sergei Merkulov, pastor of Council of Churches Baptist church
Mikhail Pugachyov, pastor of Council of Churches Baptist church
Sergei Suprunenko, director of unregistered Council of Churches Baptist religious group
V.I. Sergeeva, Protestant
Aleksandr Khramugin, Baptist
Andrei Novikov, Baptist
Aleksandr Bychkov, Baptist
V.I. Polkovnikova, Protestant
V.N. Lukina, Jehovah's Witness
V.I. Nasonova, Jehovah's Witness
Islam Gadzhiyev, Muslim
Vladimir Klimenko, leader of religious group Christians of Evangelical Faith
R.R. Mannanova, Protestant
F.R. Muratov, Protestant
R.A. Akhmetyanova, Protestant
A.G. Vakhitova, Protestant
Ivan Manakov, Baptist shopkeeper
Marat Zhambulov, member of the Evangelical Christian Youth Movement of Buryatia
Alekssei Pomazov, Hare Krishna devotee
Anatoly Mukhin, Baptist pastor
Unknown (man), Protestant
Aleksandr Kutuyavin, Baptist Union pastor
Anton Ryzhkov ("Svetozar Ryzhkov"), leader of religious group "Pokon Roda", part of a "non-traditional religious movement"
P.V. Kotlyarenko, Jehovah's Witness
T.A. Mandrichenko, Jehovah's Witness
Sergei Kriulin, Russian Orthodox priest (Russian Orthodox Church Abroad which did not rejoin the Moscow Patriarchate in 2007)

O.A. Porokhova, Nizhny Tagil Evangelical Christian Church
Ye.V. Kalinin, Nizhny Tagil Evangelical Christian Church
V.I. Novoselov, Nizhny Tagil Evangelical Christian Church
V.L. Poluboryatsev, Nizhny Tagil Evangelical Christian Church
P.V. Kornilov, Nizhny Tagil Evangelical Christian Church
S.I. Golovachev, Nizhny Tagil Evangelical Christian Church
Mikhail Bezgans, Baptist
V.V. Volkov, Baptist
L.I. Konovalova, religious affiliation unknown
Jesus Christ Evangelical Church, Nizhny Tagil
Svetlana Tarasova, Baptist
Z.A. Dzhafarov, Jehovah's Witness
Olga Supranovich, Hare Krishna
Kifoyatullo Mirzoyev, an unofficial imam
Inna Khaziakhmetova, Hare Krishna
A.V. Mazepov, religious Christian affiliation unknown
G.M. Goncharov, Jehovah's Witness
Ivan Denisov, Protestant
Aleksandr Kulikov, Hare Krishna leader
Northern Tomsk Jehovah's Witness community
Northern Tomsk Jehovah's Witness community
R.A. Faradzhov, unknown religious affiliation
S.P. Barchenkova, unknown religious affiliation
Vladimir Lashchuk, chair of a Jehovah's Witness community
D.Kh. Sharafeyev, Protestant
L.S. Kharkova, unknown religious affiliation
L.L. Dallakyan, Jehovah's Witness
Saniya Voyteshina, Jehovah's Witness
Valery Vyatkin, a Council of Churches Baptist pastor
V.V. Fedorov, Jehovah's Witness
A.V. Rybakov, unknown religious affiliation
N.S. Ivanova, unknown religious affiliation
O.A. Lenin, Jehovah's Witness
G.A. Lenina, Jehovah's Witness
L.N. Kvasova, Jehovah's Witness
N.E. Ilyumzhinova, Jehovah's Witness
Embassy of Christ Association of Evangelical Churches
Naberezhniye Chelny Jehovah's Witness community
A.P. Mayevsky, unknown religious affiliation
V.V. Pestova, Jehovah's Witness
P.V. Alekseyev, Jewish
Sergei Belyayev, Hare Krishna leader
Suriya Bezbatchesko, Protestant
R.S. Vasilyev, Protestant
T.P. Vasilyeva, Baptist
A.I. Glazkov, unknown religious affiliation
D.A. Rublyovsky, religious affiliation unknown
Iraida Vezhova, religious affiliation unknown
Sergei Stepanov, head of Tree of Eternal Life Baptist Union mission organisation