

RUSSIA

Jehovah's Witnesses, Said Nursi Followers and the Church of Scientology do not use or advocate the use of force nor violence in their teachings, and their aim is not to overthrow the political regime in place. Nonetheless, they are prosecuted on the basis of the “**Law on Fighting Extremist Activity**”, originally adopted in 2002 but amended in 2006 in such a way that removed the necessity for alleged violators to be associated with violence or calls to violence.

This opened the door for arbitrary and unrestrained interpretations of the concept of extremism, which enabled the criminalization of religious activities carried out by non-Orthodox minority groups. This move was criticized by the UN Human Rights Committee (28 April 2015), the PACE Monitoring Committee of the Council of Europe (14 September 2012), and the Venice Commission (1 June 2012), which called on Russia to correct the law, by making an element of violence or hatred a requirement for prosecution.

Jehovah's Witness

Alam ALIEV

Place of residence: Birodidzhan

Charges: Conducting deliberate, virorous actions of an organizational character directed at esumption and continuation of the illgal activity of a forbidden religious (extremist) organization

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 282.2 Part 1 (Actions directed at the incitement of hatred [nenavist] or enmity [vrazhda], as well as the humiliation of an individual or group of persons on the basis of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, attitude to religion, or social group).

Last court decision: The Birodidzhan (Jewish Autonomous oblast) ordered him in pre-trial detention through 14th July 2018 and scheduled his criminal case to begin on 22nd May 2018

Other information: He is suspected of convening meetings, organizing religious performances, collecting financial resources in the form of donations, as well as conducting mass eventss aimed at distributing extremist literature and materials of extremist contents.

Sources: <https://bit.ly/2KHysvh> and <https://bit.ly/2Lir3Ue>

Konstantin BAZHENOV

Age: 43 years

Date of arrest: 12th June 2018

Charges: Organizing the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and Criminal Code Article 282.2, Part 2: Participating in the activity of a social or religious association or other organization in relation to which a court has adopted a decision legally in force on liquidation or ban on the activity in connection with the carrying out of extremist activity.

First court decision: Pre-trial detention until 12th August 2018

Source: <https://www.jw-russia.org/news/18061516-349.html>

Alexei BUDENCHUK.

Age: 35 years

Date of arrest: 12th June 2018

Charges: Organizing the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and Criminal Code Article 282.2, Part 2: Participating in the activity of a social or religious association or other organization in relation to which a court has adopted a decision legally in force on liquidation or ban on the activity in connection with the carrying out of extremist activity.

First court decision: Pre-trial detention until 12th August 2018

Source: <https://www.jw-russia.org/news/18061516-349.html>

Dennis CHRISTENSEN

Date of birth: 18th December 1972

Date and place of arrest: On 25th May 2017, in the town of Oryol

Charges: Participating in extremist activities

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 282.2 Part 1 (Actions directed at the incitement of hatred [nenavist] or enmity [vrazhda], as well as the humiliation of an individual or group of persons on the basis of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, attitude to religion, or social group).

First court decision: The Sovietsky District Court ordered him to be held in pre-trial detention for two months. He appealed against his detention.

Last court decision: On 19th February 2018, appeal was denied by Oryol Regional Court. His pre-trial detention was nearly one year. His trial started in April 2018 and will continue until 1st August 2018.

Place of detention: Krasnoarmeiskaja 10, SIZO-1, City of Orel, 302040, Russia

Other information: He is a Danish citizen. He was arrested by armed officers from the FSB after attending a meeting of the Jehovah's Witnesses, alongside some 50 other worshippers who were later released without charge. The raid and arrest came after Russia's Supreme

Court banned the Jehovah's Witnesses in April over alleged extremism. This is the first time that a Jehovah's Witness has been jailed since the Soviet Union.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2qAOmhc> , <http://bit.ly/2rk49SS> , <http://bit.ly/2rDXWUF> , <http://bit.ly/2rjWSlX> , http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2290

Ikham Shamilevich KARIMOV

Date of birth: 9th February 1981

Date and place of arrest: On 25th March 2018, in Naberezhnyye Chelny, Tatarstan

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pretrial detention from 29th May 2018 to 25th July 2018

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2385

Sergei KLIMOV

Age: 48 years

Date and place of arrest: On 3rd June 2018, in Tomsk

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 5th June 2018 until 4th August 2018.

Other information: On 4th June 2018 it was unclear if Mr. KLIMOV was still in detention. Mr KLIMOV is not one of the original founding members of the Tomsk's former JW community.

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2385

Vladimir Yuryevich KOCHNYOV

Age: 39 years

Date and place of arrest : On 27th May, in Orenburg

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal code : Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 19th May until 14th July 2018

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/jehovahs-witnesses-russia-ban-police-903021>

Feliks MAKHAMMADIEV

Age: 33 years

Date of arrest: 12th June 2018

Charges: Organizing the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and Criminal Code Article 282.2, Part 2: Participating in the activity of a social or religious association or other organization in relation to which a court has adopted a decision legally in force on liquidation or ban on the activity in connection with the carrying out of extremist activity.

First court decision: Pre-trial detention until 12th August 2018

Source: <https://www.jw-russia.org/news/18061516-349.html>

Roman MARKIN

Age: 44 years

Place of residence: Polynarny (Murmansk oblast)

Date and place of arrest: On 18th April 2018, in Polynarny

Charges: Conducting the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 23rd April 2018 until 11th June 2018

Place of detention: SIZO No. 1 of the Federal Penitentiary Service for Murmansk oblast

Source: <https://www2.stetson.edu/~psteeves/relnews/180511a.html> and http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2385

Konstantin MATASHOV

Age: 29 years

Date and place of arrest : On 27th May, in Naberezhnyye Chelny

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal code : Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 29th May until 25th July 2018

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/jehovahs-witnesses-russia-ban-police-903021>

Dmitry MIKHAILOV

Date of arrest: On 3rd June 2018

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal code : Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 3rd June until 29th July 2018

Place of detention: Ivanovo Region, 153025 Ivanovo, Ulitsa Bolotnaya 2, Investigation Prison No. 1

Other information: Mr MIKHAILOV had previously been under travel restrictions since 20th April 2018.

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/jehovahs-witnesses-russia-ban-police-903021> and http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2381

Vladimir MYAKUSHIN

Age: 30 years

Date and place of arrest : On 27th May, in Naberezhnyye Chelny

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal code : Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 29th May 2018 until 25th July 2018

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/jehovahs-witnesses-russia-ban-police-903021>

Valentin OSADCHUK

Date of birth: 15th March 1976

Date and place of arrest : On 19th April 2018, in Vladivostok

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal code : Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 23rd April 2018 until 20th June 2018

Place of detention: SIZO No. 1 of the Federal Penitentiary Service for Murmansk oblast

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/jehovahs-witnesses-russia-ban-police-903021> and http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2385

Konstantin PETROV

Age: 31 years

Date and place of arrest: 30th May 2018, in Magadan

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 1st June 2018 until 29th July 2018

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2385

Ivan PUYADA

Date and place of arrest: On 30th May 2018, in Khabarovsk
Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization
Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation
First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 1st June 2018 until 30th July 2018
Other information: Mr POUYDA is not one of the original founding members of the Khabarovsk's former JW community.
Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2385

Alexandr Gennadyevich SUVOROV

Age: 39 years
Place of arrest: In Orenburg
Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization
Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation
First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 19th May 2018 until 14th July 2018
Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2385

Victor TROFIMOV

Age: 61 years
Place of residence: Polynarny (Murmansk oblast)
Date and place of arrest: On 18th April 2018, in Polynarny,
Charges: Conducting the activity of an extremist organization
Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation
First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 23rd April 2018 until 12th June 2018.
Place of detention: SIZO No. 1 of the Federal Penitentiary Service for Murmansk oblast
Sources: <https://www2.stetson.edu/~psteeves/relnews/180511a.html> and http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2385

Anatoliy VILITKEVICH

Age: 32 years
Date and place of arrest : On 10th April 2018, in Ufa
Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization
Article of the criminal code : Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation
First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 12th April until 2nd July 2018
Other information: It is unclear how long pre-trial detention is. But on 1st June 2018 it was extended. Legally pretrial detention is a maximum of six months.

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/jehovahs-witnesses-russia-ban-police-903021> and <https://bit.ly/2s7vuZe>

Sergei YERKIN

Age: 65 years

Date and place of arrest: On 30th May 2018, in Magadan

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 1st June 2018 until 30th July 2018

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2385

Ayadar YULMETYEV

Age: 24 years

Date and place of arrest : On 29th May in Naberezhnyye Chelny

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal code : Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 31st May until 25th July 2018

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/jehovahs-witnesses-russia-ban-police-903021>

Yevgeny ZYABLOV

Age: 41 years

Date and place of arrest: 30th May 2018, in Tomsk

Charges: Organising the activity of an extremist organization

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

First court decision: Pre-trial detention from 1st June 2018 until 30th July 2018

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2385

Scientologists

Sakhib ALIEV

Date and place of arrest: On 6th June 2017, in St. Petersburg

Charges: Participating in an extremist organization, illegal business, inciting hatred and enmity, and violation of human dignity

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 171 (Illegal commercial activity without registration) and Articles 282 and 282.1 (Organizing an extremist organisation or of extremist activities)

Last court decision: On 7th June 2017, he was sentenced to two months pre-trial detention. His detention was repeatedly prolonged. As of 31st December 2017, he was still in prison.

Other information: He was arrested alongside Anastasia TEREENTIEVA, Galina SHURINOVA, Ivan MATSITSKIY and Konstanci ESAULKOVA.

Source: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/324976?download=true>, <http://bit.ly/2rgWMPm>

Konstanci ESAULKOVA

Date and place of arrest: On 6th June 2017, in St. Petersburg

Charges: Participating in an extremist organization, illegal business, inciting hatred and enmity, and violation of human dignity

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 171 (Illegal commercial activity without registration) and Articles 282 and 282.1 (Organizing an extremist organisation or of extremist activities)

Last court decision: On 8th June 2017, she was sentenced to two months pre-trial detention. Her detention was repeatedly prolonged. As of 24th May 2018, she was still under housarrest.

Other information: She was arrested alongside Anastasia TEREENTIEVA, Sakhil ALIEV, Ivan MATSITSKIY and Galina SHURINOVA.

Source: <http://www.hrcspb.ru/page/page479.html>

Ivan MATSITSKIY

Date and place of arrest: On 6th June 2017, in St. Petersburg

Charges: Participating in an extremist organization, illegal business, inciting hatred and enmity, and violation of human dignity

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 171 (Illegal commercial activity without registration) and Articles 282 and 282.1 (Organizing an extremist organisation or of extremist activities)

Last court decision: On 8th June 2017, he was sentenced to two months pre-trial detention. His detention was repeatedly prolonged. As of 31st December 2017, he was still in prison.

Other information: He was arrested alongside Anastasia TEREENTIEVA, Galina SHURINOVA, Sakhil ALIEV and Konstanci ESAULKOVA. He was also an applicant before the European Human Rights Court in the case *Church of Scientology of St. Petersburg and Others v. Russia*.

Source: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/324976?download=true>

Galina SHURINOVA

Date and place of arrest: On 6th June 2017, in St. Petersburg

Charges: Participating in an extremist organization, illegal business, inciting hatred and enmity, and violation of human dignity

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 171 (Illegal commercial activity without registration) and Articles 282 and 282.1 (Organizing an extremist organisation or of extremist activities)

Last court decision: On 8th June 2017, she was sentenced to two months pre-trial detention. Her detention was repeatedly prolonged. As of 31st December 2017, she was still in prison.

Other information: She was arrested alongside Anastasia TERENCEVA, Sakhil ALIEV, Ivan MATSITSKIY and Konstanci ESAULKOVA. She was also an applicant before the European Human Rights Court in the case *Church of Scientology of St. Petersburg and Others v. Russia*.

Source: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/324976?download=true>

Anastasia TERENCEVA

Date and place of arrest: On 6th June 2017, in St. Petersburg

Charges: Participating in an extremist organization, illegal business, inciting hatred and enmity, and violation of human dignity

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 171 (Illegal commercial activity without registration) and Articles 282 and 282.1 (Organizing an extremist organisation or of extremist activities)

Last court decision: On 8th June 2017, she was sentenced to two months pre-trial detention. Her detention was repeatedly prolonged. As of 31st December 2017, she was still in prison.

Other information: She was arrested alongside Sakhil ALIEV, Galina SHURINOVA, Ivan MATSITSKIY and Konstanci ESAULKOVA. She was also an applicant before the European Human Rights Court in the case *Church of Scientology of St. Petersburg and Others v. Russia*.

Source: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/324976?download=true>

Said Nursi Followers

Ilgar Vagif-ogly ALIYEV

Place of residence: Izberbash

Date and place of arrest: On 19th April 2017, in Izberbash, Dagestan

Charges: Holding "classes involving a group of adherents of [Nurdzhular]"

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 282.2 Part 1 1 (Organizing an extremist organisation or of extremist activities)

Statement of the defendant: He says that such an organisation [Nurdzhular] does not exist and denies engagement in extremist activity.

Last court decision: On 28th May 2018, the court in Dagestan sentenced him to eight years imprisonment plus two years restrictions of studying Muslim theologian Said Nursi's writings. He remains in pre-trial detention while his appeal is pending.

Place of detention: Investigation Prison in Makhachkala

Other information: He is punished for studying Said Nursi's writings, together with others

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2279,

http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2358,

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2386

Ziyavdin DAPAYEV

Date of birth: 12th May 1982

Place of residence: Mahachkala

Date and place of arrest: In March 2016, Mahachkala

Charges: Involvement with the banned Nurdzhular organisation

Statement of the defendant: He says that such an organisation [Nurdzhular] does not exist and denies engagement in extremist activity.

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 282.2 Part 1 1 (Organizing an extremist organisation or of extremist activities) and part 2 (Participation in an extremist organisation).

First court decision: At the end of December 2016, Makhachkala's Soviet District Court extended his detention until 4th March 2017.

Last court decision: The first full hearing took place on 3rd April 2017 at Mahachkala's Lenin District Court. There have been eight hearings so far, the most recent on 16th June 2017. As of 31st December 2017, he was still in prison.

Place of detention: Investigation Prison No. 1 in the Dagestan capital Makachkala

Other information: He was detained alongside, Artur KULTUYEV, his brother Sukhrab KULTUYEV, and fourteen other people on suspicion of involvement in a Nurdzhular organisation. Most of those were released after questioning. While Sukhrab KULTUYEV and Artur KULTUYEV were placed under travel restrictions, DAPAYEV remained in custody. His name has been added to the Rosfinmonitoring list of "terrorists and extremists".

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2166,

http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2270,

http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2290

Bagir KAZIKHANOV

Age: 31 years

Place of residence: Ulyanovsk

Date and place of arrest: On 9th April 2014, and then again on 25th February 2015, in Ulyanovsk.

Charges: Creating a cell of a banned Nurdzhular organisation and participating in its activities

Statement of the defendant: He says that such an organisation [Nurdzhular] does not exist and denies engagement in extremist activity.

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Article 282.2 Part 1 (Organizing an extremist organisation or of extremist activities)

First court decision: On 25th February 2015, he was sentenced to three-and-a-half-years to be served in a general-regime correctional colony by Lenin District Court in Ulyanovsk.

Last court decision: On 6th and 13th May 2015, Judge Maksim Maksimov of Russia's Ulyanovsk Regional Court upheld the three-and-a-half-year prison term.

Other information: He was arrested alongside Stepan KUDRYASHOV and Aleksandr MELENTYEV. KAZIKHANOV was the first reader of the works of the late Turkish Islamic theologian, Said Nursi, to receive a jail sentence in Russia since September 2013.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2066

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2046

Yevgeny Lvovich KIM

Date of birth: 5th October 1974

Date and place of arrest: On 26th December 2015, in Blagoveshchensk (Amur Region)

Charges: Disseminating the religious ideas of the international religious association Nurdzhular, fully aware of the fact that... [it] had been recognised as extremist and its activities prohibited on the territory of the Russian Federation. The charges claimed that his speeches at his meetings ‘were aimed at inciting religious hatred’, promoted the ‘superiority of the Turkic peoples’, and contained ‘negative evaluations’ of Armenians and Russians.

Statement of the defendant: He says that such an organisation [Nurdzhular] does not exist and denies engagement in extremist activity.

Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 282.2 Part 1 (Organizing an extremist organisation or of extremist activities)

First court decision: On 25th January 2016, a full hearing took place with an unknown outcome

Second court decision: On 19th June 2017, he was sentenced to three years and nine months in an ordinary-regime correctional colony by Blagoveshchensk City Court. His imprisonment is to be followed by one year of “restrictions on freedom”. During this time, he will not be allowed to move or travel outside his place of residence without permission, and may have to report regularly to probation authorities.

Last court decision: On 24th August 2017, his appeal was unsuccessful. He has lodged a cassation appeal at Amur Regional Court

Place of detention: Correctional Colony No. 3 in Khabarovsk

Other information: His time in detention before and during the trial, amounting to nearly 18 months, will be subtracted from his sentence. He is on the Rosfinmonitoring list of "terrorists and extremists".

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2250, <http://bit.ly/2m4omww>
http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2270,
http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2279,
http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2290,
http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2332