

# **RUSSIA: Some pending criminal cases of Jehovah's Witnesses in December**

HRWF (16.12.2019) – Along with China and Iran, the Russian State is in the top three most repressive countries for putting believers of a peaceful minority religious group behind bars who use their legitimate right to freedom of religion. Here are a few criminal cases of Jehovah's Witnesses among many others that were pending in December.

## ***Case of Bazhenov and Others in Saratov***

Region: Saratov

Locality: Saratov

Case number: 11807630001000037

Number of the case in court: 1-333/2019

Current stage: Trial in appellate court

Suspected of: According to the investigation, together with others he conducted religious services, which is interpreted as "organising the activity of an extremist organisation" (with reference to the decision of the Russian Supreme Court on the liquidation of all 396 registered organisations of Jehovah's Witnesses)

Article of the Russian Criminal Code: 282.2 (1)

Investigating: Investigative Department of the Directorate of the FSB of Russia for the Saratov Region

Case initiated: 9 June 2018

## ***Case of Yevgeniy Golik***

Yevgeniy Golik, an ex-drug addict from Birobidzhan born in

1975 who had changed his life thanks to the Bible awaits trial for his faith.

Region: Jewish Autonomous Region

Locality: Birobidzhan

Case number: 11907990001000010

Current stage: Review of case materials by the accused in accordance with the Article 217 of the Code of Criminal Procedure

Suspected of: According to the investigation he engaged in "study of Jehovah's Witnesses' religious literature among the members of the meeting, including Jehovah's Witnesses editions of "The Holy Scriptures/ The New World Translation"

Article of the Russian Criminal Code: 282.2 (2)

Investigating: Investigation Office of Russian Federal Security Office for the Jewish autonomous region

Case initiated: 30 July 2019

### ***Case of Vladimir Khokhlov***

Name: Vladimir Aleksandrovich Khokhlov

Born: 1977

Current status: Suspect

Detained since: 23 October 2019

Current restrictions: Pre-trial detention

Currently held in: Detention Centre No.2 for Bryansk Region

Address for correspondence: Хохлову Владимиру Александровичу, 1977 г.р., ФКУ СИЗО-1 УФСИН России по Брянской области, ул. Советская, д. 2, г Брянск, 241050

Region: Bryansk Region

Locality: Novozybkov

Case number: 11902150006000061

Current stage: Preliminary investigation (pre-trial proceedings)

Suspected of: According to the investigation they held talks in public places and living quarters with residents in order to promote the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses, involved other people in this activity by persuasion, and raised money.

Article of the Russian Criminal Code: 282.2 (2) and 282.3 (1).  
Investigating: The First Department for the investigation of particularly important cases of the Investigative Department of the IC of Russia in Bryansk Region  
Case initiated: 16 October 2019

### ***Case of Eduard Zhinzhikov***

Name: Eduard Vladimirovich Zhinzhikov  
Born: 1971  
Current status: Suspect  
Detained since: 23 October 2019  
Current restrictions: Pre-trial detention  
Currently held in: Detention Centre No.2 for Bryansk Region  
Address for correspondence: Жинжикову Эдуарду Владимировичу, 1971 г.р., ФКУ СИЗО-1 УФСИН России по Брянской области, ул. Советская, д. 2, г Брянск, 241050  
Region: Bryansk Region  
Locality: Novozybkov  
Case number: 11902150006000061  
Current stage: Preliminary investigation (pre-trial proceedings)  
Suspected of: According to the investigation they held talks in public places and living quarters with residents in order to promote the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses, involved other people in this activity by persuasion, and raised money.  
Article of the Russian Criminal Code: 282.2 (2) and 282.3 (1).  
Investigating: The First Department for the investigation of particularly important cases of the Investigative Department of the IC of Russia in Bryansk Region.  
Case initiated: 16 October 2019

### ***Case of Loginov and Others in Surgut***

150 people came to the Saratov Regional Court to appeal in the

case of six believers, but the hearing was postponed until December 20

Region: Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area

Locality: Surgut

Case number: 11902711017027628

Current stage: Preliminary investigation (pre-trial proceedings)

Suspected of: Delivering speeches, engaging in the Witnesses' public preaching activity with local members, meeting with Bible education volunteers and appointed congregation assistants, and having as one objective the organizing of appointed men in the Vzlyotnove Congregation

Article of the Russian Criminal Code: 282.2 (1) and 282.2 (2)

Investigating: Investigative Department of the city of Surgut of the Investigative Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation for the Khanty-Mansi Region

Case initiated: 11 February 2019

### ***Case of Dmitriy Tischchenko***

Ussuriysk citizen Dmitriy Tishchenko faces prison for discussing the Bible in a cafe which is considered extremism by the police.

Name: Dmitriy Vladimirovich Tishchenko

Born: 1984

Current status: Accused

Current restrictions: Recognizance agreement

Region: Primorye Territory

Locality: Ussuriysk

Case number: 11902050012000027

Current stage: Preliminary investigation (pre-trial proceedings)

Suspected of: According to the investigation he "took steps to

organize the recruitment of new members aimed at continuing the illegal activities of the banned religious organization 'Jehovah's Witnesses Administrative Center in Russia'" (with reference to the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on the liquidation of the religious organization "Jehovah's Witnesses Administrative Center in Russia" and its structural divisions)

Article of the Russian Criminal Code: 282.2 (1)

Investigating: Investigation Department for Ussuriysk city of the Investigation Administration of the IC of Russia for Primorye Territory

Case initiated: 18 June 2019

### ***Case of Anton Chermnykh***

Young father from Ussuriysk Anton Chermnykh performed civilian service due to religious convictions, but now he is persecuted for them. Read his bio

Name: Anton Yevgeniyevich Chermnykh

Born: 1987

Current status: Accused

Current restrictions: Recognizance agreement

Region: Primorye Territory

Locality: Ussuriysk

Case number: 11902050012000027

Current stage: Preliminary investigation (pre-trial proceedings)

Suspected of: According to the investigation he "took steps to organize the recruitment of new members aimed at continuing the illegal activities of the banned religious organization 'Jehovah's Witnesses Administrative Center in Russia'" (with reference to the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on the liquidation of the religious organization "Jehovah's Witnesses Administrative Center in Russia" and its structural divisions)

Article of the Russian Criminal Code: 282.2 (1)

Investigating: Investigation Department for Ussuriysk city of the Investigation Administration of the IC of Russia for Primorye Territory

Case initiated: 18 June 2019

### ***Case of Larisa Artamonova***

The Bible helped Larisa Artamonova find hope and strength to cope with a rare disease, but now she faces jail for her faith.

Name: Larisa Aleksandrovna Artamonova

Born: 1970

Current status: Accused

Current restrictions: Recognizance agreement

Region: Jewish Autonomous Region

Locality: Birobidzhan

Case number: 11907990001000015

Current stage: Review of case materials by the accused in accordance with the Article 217 of the Code of Criminal Procedure

Suspected of: According to the investigation she took part in "preparation and carrying out the functioning of Jehovah's Witnesses' preaching activities and spreading this teaching"

Article of the Russian Criminal Code: 282.2 (2)

Investigating: Investigation Office of Russian Federal Security Office for the Jewish autonomous region

Case initiated: 25 September 2019

### ***Case of Vasiliy Reznichenko***

A 77-year-old labor veteran, ex-boat captain Vasiliy Reznichenko, is put on the list of extremists because of his faith in God.

Name: Vasiliy Pavlovich Reznichenko

Born: 1942

Current status: Accused

Current restrictions: Recognizance agreement

Region: Amur Region

Locality: Zeya

Case number: 11907100001000017

Current stage: Preliminary investigation (pre-trial proceedings)

Suspected of: по версии следствия, «организовал собрания последователей... религиозной организации»

Article of the Russian Criminal Code: 282.2 (2)

Investigating: СО УФСБ России по Амурской области

Case initiated: 11 March 2019

Source and more information: [JW-Russia.org](http://JW-Russia.org)