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RUSSIA: Special bimonthly FORB Digest (16.08-02.09.2020)

02.09.20- The first convictions in Kemerovo Region have been handed down to two of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Link to full text in Russian:
<https://jw-russia.org/news/2020/09/2.html>

On September 2, 2020, the 14-month court proceedings against Jehovah's Witnesses Sergey Britvin and Vadim Levchuk in the town of Beryozovsky came to a conclusion.

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28.08.20- Kursk regional court to rule on September 4 whether

Dennis Christensen can be set free in exchange for a large fine

Link to full text in Russian:
<https://jw-russia.org/news/2020/08/9.html>

On September 4, 2020 at 16:00, the Kursk Regional Court will consider the prosecutor's appeal against the decision of of the Lgov District Court to replace Dennis Christensen with a fine of 400,000 rubles.

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28.08.20- Judge shields Jehovah's Witness from additional examination

Link to full text in Russian:
<https://www.kavkaz-uzel.eu/articles/353542/>

The Maisky district court did not satisfy the request of the state's prosecutor to order a new expert analysis in the case of Jehovah's Witness Yury Zalipaev and it scheduled the debates of the sides for 18 September, lawyer Anton Omelchenko reported.

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28.08.20- Thirty European nations condemned the persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia

Link to full text in Russian:
<https://jw-russia.org/news/2020/08/8.html>

On 23 July 2020, at a meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), 30 member States issued a statement strongly criticizing the repression of Jehovah's Witnesses by the Russian authorities.

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26.08.20- Orthodox activist fined for criticizing lockdown of

churches in Russia

Link to full text in Russian:
<https://www.idelreal.org/a/30803889.html>

During the “self-isolation phase” in Tatarstan, Mikhail Shcheglov sent to the president of Tatarstan a request to permit Orthodox residents of the republic to attend churches during the religious holidays.

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26.08.20- Expert opinion defends Jehovah’s Witness in criminal trial

Link to full text in Russian:
<https://www.kavkaz-uzel.eu/articles/353470/>

At the court session in the case of the Jehovah’s Witness Yury Zalipaev from Maisky, the state’s prosecutor filed a petition to order for this case yet another expert analysis, and the defense spoke out against it, the lawyer Anton Omelchenko reported.

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24.08.20- Why are peace-loving individuals being framed as criminals? An engineer is being tried for his faith in the city of Krasnoyarsk

Link to full text in Russian:
<https://jw-russia.org/news/2020/08/7.html>

In Krasnoyarsk, District Court has begun consideration of the criminal case against Andrey Stupnikov, a peaceful believer accused of extremism. Who he is and why he is being tried, is described in a 4-minute video.

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21.08.20- Russia holds church accountable for coronavirus

infections

Link to full text in Russian:
<http://www.interfax-religion.ru/?act=news&div=75563>

The Orthodox parish of the village of Ishparsovo in Bashkiria was fined 200,000 rubles for an outbreak of coronavirus. A city court of Sterlitamak issued an order concerning this.

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20.08.20- Human rights center publicizes case of Jehovah's Witness believer

Link to full text in Russian:
https://memohrc.org/ru/news_old/v-kemerovskoy-oblasti-prokuratura-zaprosila-dlya-svidetelya-iegovy-dva-goda-kolonii

On 18 August, in the debates in Berezovskii city court of Kemerovo oblast, the prosecution asked for two years in a penal colony of general regime for Jehovah's Witness Khasan Kogut. This is reported by Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia.

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20.08.20- More Jehovah's Witnesses arrested in ethnic region of western Siberia

Link to full text in Russian:
<https://iz.ru/1050460/2020-08-20/v-khmao-zaderzhali-adeptov-svidetelei-iegovy>

In Yugorsk in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug [Kh.M.A.O.], a case against two residents suspected of arranging the activity of a religious cell of Jehovah's Witnesses, whose activity is forbidden on Russian territory, was opened.

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19.08.20- Law enforcers once again search the homes of believers in the Yugra region.

Link to full text in Russian:
<https://jw-russia.org/news/2020/08/6.html>

In the morning of August 19, 2020, law enforcers invaded at least four dwellings of Jehovah's Witnesses in the towns of Ugorsk and the neighboring Sovetskiy. No information about the detainees had been received so far.

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