

## Campaign for Dennis Christensen



Source: Newsweek [\[1\]](#)

**Dennis Christensen**, 44, a Danish national and EU citizen, is imprisoned in Russia for practicing his religion.

He was **arrested on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017**, in Oryol, by armed officers from the Federal Security Service (FSB) in a raid on a private worship service of Jehovah's Witnesses. He was arrested alongside some fifty 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**, designating the group an "extremist organization." Dennis is the first person to be detained following the ruling. This is also the first time that a Jehovah's Witness has been jailed in the country since the Soviet Union.

"They arrested him merely for reading the Bible," Yaroslav Sivulskiy, a Jehovah's Witnesses spokesman in Russia, said.[\[2\]](#) However, if convicted of being a member of an extremist organization, Dennis **could face between six and ten years in prison** under Article 282.2, part 1 of the Criminal Code.

**Last court decision:** The Sovietsky District Court ordered him to be held in **pre-trial detention for two months**. An appeal was lodged to a higher court following that decision.[\[3\]](#)

**Update:** The hearing scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 has been postponed indefinitely.[\[4\]](#)