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Memorial banned as an extremist organization: a 'top secret' trial behind closed doors for a 'memoricide' (3)

Persecution and prosecution remain a threat for Memorial people (See [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#))

HRWF (07.05.2026) - On 9 April 2026, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation ruled that [the International Public Movement Memorial](#) was an extremist organization and that all its activities throughout the country were banned. For Russia, this was not just a final court decision putting an end to the existence of a famous human rights organization disturbing the political agenda of the Kremlin, but it was also to make possible NOW the criminalization of all the men and women who had worked or been associated with Memorial.

To silence all disturbing voices and to render invisible the dark pages of Russia's history in the 20th century is what some scholars call "memoricide."

A closed trial and a secret case

The lawsuit had been filed by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation on 31 March 2026 and the axe of the Supreme Court fell 10 days later.

[The Council of the Memorial Center](#) reported that the lawsuit was considered in a closed session, and the case was classified as "top secret". The lawyer was not allowed to participate in the trial.

On the eve of the trial, the head of the legal department of the Human Rights Defence Centre (HRC) Memorial [Natalia Sekretareva](#) told the BBC: "The case is classified as 'top secret' and we still do not know the content of the charges, nor who the court and the Ministry of Justice consider to be the International Movement Memorial."

After the decision was made public, the Ministry of Justice stated that "*the activities of the movement are extremist in nature and pose a threat to the foundations of the constitutional system, ensuring the integrity and security of the Russian Federation, aimed at leveling historical, cultural, spiritual and moral values, inciting social and religious strife*".

More civil society actors of Memorial under threat of prosecution

[The Board of the International Memorial Association](#) noted that formally the "movement" with this name does not exist as a single structure. It is a network of independent organizations operating in different countries.

According to representatives of the movement, the vague wording in the court's decision is not accidental: it creates a legal basis for the persecution of the widest possible range

of people involved in the preservation of historical memory and the protection of human rights - from activists to casual supporters.

After the court decision comes into force, participation in the activities of the Memorial movement will be a criminal offense and can be qualified under Article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation – "participation in the activities of an extremist organization". The maximum punishment is up to 10 years in prison.

In practice, this means that not only employees of the organization may be at risk of criminal prosecution.

The following previous and future activities may be prosecuted:

- donations,
- reposts of publications,
- links to materials,
- dissemination of research,
- mentioning the Memorial without necessarily indicating the "extremist" status,
- attempts to find information about political prisoners.

Defending human rights is anti-Russian

Explaining [the reason for filing the lawsuit](#), the Ministry of Justice said that Memorial considered persons convicted for participating in terrorist activities as political prisoners. The ministry also pointed to 196 people who are "actively involved" in the organization's activities and receive funding from it, including from abroad.

The court's decision stated that the participants committed extremist crimes: six people were convicted under articles on incitement to terrorism (Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code) and on discrediting the army (Article 280.3 of the Criminal Code). It is also indicated that the International Memorial Movement operated without having constituted a legal entity, included structures previously recognized as "foreign agents", and its activities were allegedly "anti-Russian."

In fact, the logic of the accusation is as follows: if an organization defends the rights of people whom the state considers criminals, but disagrees with the state and says it is politically motivated, the organization itself becomes a threat to the state.

This makes human rights activities a political crime...

Defending human rights is a crime in Russia

Denis Krivosheev, [Amnesty International](#)'s Deputy Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, declared: "For almost 40 years, Memorial's tireless work in documenting past and ongoing repressions in Russia has helped to save violations of the rights of millions of people from oblivion. From the victims of the Stalin-era gulags, to human rights abuses during the conflicts in Chechnya, Georgia, and Ukraine, to the arbitrary detentions of hundreds of Kremlin critics and political opponents of the Russian government today. As a leading human rights organisation, Memorial has courageously defended human rights in the face of brutal repression, including the persecution, detention and murder of its staff... At present, the authorities are actually criminalizing human rights activities themselves. From now on, likes or distribution of Memorial materials on social networks can become the basis for a criminal case».

The Russian state has engineered a new “law-based” model of repression **criminalizing in vague terms extremism without violence to facilitate the prosecution of human rights activists.**

[Alexander Cherkasov](#), former chairman of the Memorial Human Rights Center, noted that the recognition of the International Public Movement Memorial as extremist will greatly simplify the work of the investigative bodies. “If a person is simply declared to be “associated” with such a social movement, there is no need to further provide evidence about his individual actions,” he said.

The analysis of the latest deviances of Russia’s legal architecture and jurisprudence is also shared by [The human rights project OVD-Info](#). This Russian network of legal assistance to victims of human rights violations called the Supreme Court's decision "another attack on civil society," stressing that the risks of criminal prosecution of supporters of Memorial's research activities now extend even to basic forms of research and civic solidarity.

Memorial in exile

Paradoxically, the ban in Russia does not mean the disappearance of Memorial.

In 2023, an international association was established in Geneva to continue working with archives, research and lists of political prisoners. It is expected that Memorial will continue its work outside of Russia, in Europe, primarily in Switzerland and Germany. Archives, research and human rights initiatives will be preserved and developed, but no longer in Russia.

Memorial is increasingly becoming not so much an organization as a symbol of memory, resistance and independent human rights.

What this means for Europe

For Europe, this is no longer only an internal Russian history, but a matter of protecting the common principles of memory, law and human dignity. This means much more than the loss of another Russian human rights organization. This means:

- the loss of one of the key partners in the field of historical memory,
- increased pressure on human rights defenders across the region,
- the need to take on a greater role in the preservation of archives, testimonies and research work,
- a security and stability issue on the European continent as Memorial was a rampart against extremist and vindictive nationalism in Russia.

If memory work becomes punishable inside Russia, then it is European institutions that become the space where this memory can and should be preserved.

Final step of the Kremlin’s lobotomization of the Russian people’s memory (2)

In the aftermath of the banning of Memorial in April, HRWF calls for the release of all its human rights defenders still in detention, including possibly in an international exchange of prisoners as it happened with Yuri Orlov in 2024.



HRWF (04.05.2026) - In a closed hearing held on 9 April 2026, Russia's Supreme Court designated [the International Public Movement Memorial](#) – a catch-all term that the government used to impose the ban on all Memorial-related organizations – as “extremist” and ban its activities in the country. This was the final step of the Kremlin's lobotomization of the Russian people's memory.

This move culminated a years-long campaign against Memorial, which was founded in the late Soviet period and had since grown into a community of dozens of sister organizations operating in Russia and abroad.

“**Never Again** an era of totalitarian regime in Russia” had been the objective of *Memorial*, Nobel Peace Prize 2022.”

From “foreign agent” to “extremism” (2014-2026)

In May 2014 one of the associations, Russia-based “Human Rights Centre Memorial”, was designated as a “foreign agent” due to foreign funding and alleged political activities. It was hereby forced to label all its information materials as such and faced intensive auditing. Afterwards, the Russian authorities labelled several other Memorial organizations as well as around 20 of its staff members “foreign agents.”

In December 2021, the Supreme Court liquidated [International Memorial](#) and Human Rights Centre Memorial.

The reasons were repeated violations of the law on foreign agents, including in terms of labeling materials. The prosecutor's office accused the organization of speculating on the topic of political repression and creating a “false image of the USSR as a terrorist state.” These decisions caused a large-scale international reaction.

[Many public figures](#) in Russia and abroad expressed their support for Memorial and its structures. Among them were Nobel laureates Mikhail Gorbachev and Dmitry Muratov, writer and actor Stephen Fry, playwright Tom Stoppard, journalist Vladimir Pozner, several dozen academicians and corresponding members of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

[The European Union and the United States](#) also condemned the dismantling of Memorial.

The head of the European Union's foreign policy service, Josep Borrell, expressed regret over the decision to liquidate Memorial, which “plays an important role in preserving the memory of political repression and human rights violations.” US State Department spokesman Ned Price said that the liquidation of Memorial reflected “an era of rapidly shrinking space for independent civil society, media and pro-democracy activists in Russia.” He called on the Russian authorities to stop harassing human rights defenders.

From 2021 until 2026, the various Memorials continued to operate without state registration.

In February 2026, the Russian Ministry of Justice added the Switzerland-based Memorial International Association and German foundation Zukunft Memorial to the list of “undesirable organizations.”

Repressions against the guardians of the memory temple

A special tribute must be rendered to the numerous well-known or anonymous guardians of the memory temple who have strived to collect and preserve the evidence of the atrocities perpetrated under the totalitarian Communist regime. A few prominent victims among many...

In 2009, [Natalia Estemirova](#), a researcher of Memorial's Grozny office (North Caucasus), who was investigating kidnappings and murders in Chechnya, was kidnapped in Grozny and found murdered in Ingushetia. Her death shocked Russia, but the masterminds of the murder were never found.

According to the chairman of the board of the Memorial Human Rights Centre, [Oleg Orlov](#), the leadership of the Chechen Republic is behind this murder. He also said that Ramzan Kadyrov had personally threatened the human rights activist.

The case of historian [Yuri Dmitriev](#), the head of the Karelian branch of Memorial and the researcher [of mass graves of victims of repression in Sandarmokh](#) and Krasny Bor, caused a significant public outcry.

Yuri Dmitriev is currently 70 years old. He has been on trial since... 2018. As a result of repeated court reviews of his case, the historian was lastly sentenced to [15 years in prison](#) and, if the court decisions remain unchanged, he will not be released until 2032.

His supporters claimed that the persecution was related to his human rights activities and work to restore the memory of the victims of repression under the Soviet Union.

The [European Union](#), as well as scientists and artists from different countries, demanded his release.

On March 31, 2026, [the European Court of Human Rights \(ECHR\)](#) in Strasbourg ordered Russia to pay him financial compensation to imprisoned [historian Yuri Dmitriev](#) for moral damage caused to him by excessively long pre-trial detention and lack of a fair trial.

Yuri Dmitriev was a laureate of the following awards: the Golden Pen of Russia Prize (Russia, 2005), the Golden Cross of Merit (Poland, 2015), the Certificate of Honor of the Republic of Karelia (2016), the Moscow Helsinki Group Prize in the field of human rights protection (2018), the Anna Dahlbeck Memorial Foundation Prize for Civil Courage in the Struggle for Human Rights (Sweden, 2020), the Lev Kopelev Prize for Peace and Human Rights (Germany, 2020), Andrei Sakharov Freedom Prize (Norwegian Helsinki Committee, 2021).

On 18 March 2019, [Oyub Titiev](#), the head of Memorial's Chechen office, was sentenced to four years in a penal colony on alleged charges of drug possession.

Oyub Tatiyev is a laureate of the Václav Havel Prize for the Protection of Human Rights (awarded by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2018), the Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law established by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of France and Germany (2018), the Moscow Helsinki Group Prize for Courage in the Protection of Human Rights (2018).

On 23 May 2023, human rights defender [Bakhrom Khamroev](#), who collaborated with Memorial, was sentenced to 13 years and 9 months in prison on politically motivated charges: "*Public calls for terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism committed using the media or electronic or information and telecommunications networks, including the Internet*") and "*Participation in the activities of a terrorist organization.*"

He has been detained since February 24, 2022.

On 27 February 2024, the [Co-Chairman of the Memorial, Oleg Orlov](#), was sentenced to 2.5 years in a general regime colony in a politically motivated case with the motivation of repeatedly discrediting the army.

On 1 August 2024, Oleg Orlov was released in a [prisoner exchange](#) between Russia, Belarus and five Western countries

Oleg Orlov is a laureate of the Andrei Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought (2009), the Moscow Helsinki Group Prize in the category "For Historical Contribution to the Protection of Human Rights and the Human Rights Movement" (2012), the Honorary Citizen of Paris Prize for "the struggle for democracy, respect for human rights and freedom" (2024).

On 4 April 2024, [Alexander Chernyshov](#), the former chairman of the Perm "Center of Historical Memory" (created after the liquidation of the Perm "Memorial"), was convicted of "attempted smuggling of cultural values." The investigation alleged that Alexander Chernyshov and the former head of the Perm "Memorial", Robert Latypov, tried to illegally export from Russia to Germany archival documents of the organization, which represent "cultural and historical value". It was about documents from the archive of the Perm Memorial, which covered the period of the organization's activities for several decades...

The court sentenced Chernyshov to [3 years in prison](#) with a probation period of three years. According to the court's decision, the archives of the Perm Memorial should be transferred to the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History for storage.

On 19 August 2025, [Sergei Davidis](#), a member of the board of directors and co-chairman of the Memorial Centre, was sentenced in absentia to six years in prison under a politically motivated article, for allegedly justifying terrorism on the Internet (Part 2 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code). The formal reason for the prosecution was that Davidis reposted on his personal Facebook the news about the recognition as political prisoners of 22 prisoners from the Ukrainian Azov regiment (banned in Russia as a terrorist organization).

Davidis now lives in Lithuania and continues his Memorial work from that country.

Destruction in Russia of monuments to the memory of Soviet repression victims

Hopefully there will be a time to erect such monuments in all the regions of Russia where there was a Memorial branch. For now, Moscow continues to destroy monuments to the memory of the victims of Soviet repression.

In April 2026, on the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Genocide of the Soviet People, the [Stone of Sorrow](#) (Marble Arch and Grey Granite Stone), a memorial to the victims of Soviet repression, was bulldozed at night without warning.

Memorial stones erected in memory of the captivity of Poles, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians and Kalmyks deported to Siberia while the Soviet army was occupying their countries or regions many were also demolished in Tomsk.

All Memorial activists who were victims of the repression of the Russian Federation in the 21st century would deserve to have a monument with their names engraved in stone.

Why not in the area of the European Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg?

Memorial, Nobel Peace Prize 2022, declared extremist and banned by Putin (1)

On 1 May, Labour Day, let us remember the Russian citizens who worked for human rights, their historical memory, reconciliation and peace but have been victims of Putin's rule

HRWF (01.05.2026) - On 9 April 2026, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation declared [the International Public Movement Memorial](#) (Nobel Peace Prize 2022), an extremist organization and banned its activities throughout the country.

This move further criminalized the work of independent rights defenders in Russia, building on previous actions in 2021 that liquidated other Memorial entities, such as **the International Memorial Association** and **the Memorial Human Rights Center**.

This was the last nail hammered into the coffin of Memorial.

The status of a "foreign agent" first created administrative pressure, the liquidation destroyed the legal structure, and the status of "extremist organization" led to the criminalization and the capital punishment of Memorial.

Many people close to Memorial are now at risk in Russia: not only the staff of Memorial, but also supporters, researchers, donors and everyone who continues to work undercover on the topic of historical memory.

The decision of the Supreme Court is already being called one of the most resonant blows to the human rights movement in the Russian Federation. This assassination was committed in the total indifference of the international media, which was too preoccupied with Trump's war in Iran and Israel's wars against the Hamas in Gaza and the Hezbollah in Lebanon. No movement of protest and no public demonstration. In the best case, some political declarations on the global scene but only words, no actions.

It is important to understand that Memorial is not just a non-governmental organization. It is one of the main keepers of the historical memory concerning the political repression in the USSR in the 20th century and also a key actor documenting human rights violations in the current Russian Federation.

The process engaged by Memorial could have been the main driving force leading to the equivalent of the denazification of Germany after WWII. This self-purification was followed by reconciliation between the warring countries, decades of reconciliation in Western Europe, and the construction of the EU. In Russia, a similar movement of self-purification was nipped in the bud and that is why war is back on the European continent.

The recognition of Memorial as an extremist organization was not a sudden decision, but the logical outcome of many years of conflictual interaction.

Why Memorial became inconvenient and unwelcome for the Russian state

Memorial was first engaged in research on Soviet terror, Gulag archives, search for mass graves, publication of lists of victims, and restoration of their honour.

At the same time, the organization documented contemporary human rights violations: the wars in Chechnya, the conflicts in Georgia and Ukraine, the persecution and imprisonment of political activists, arbitrary detentions and pressure on civil society inside Russia.

It is this link between the past and the present that has become fundamental in the mission of Memorial but also politically disturbing. A "Never Again" movement was not allowed to exist.

Memorial showed that the repression in the Soviet times was not only a historical issue, but it remained an ongoing political practice. For the authorities, this meant a direct challenge to the official version of history, which focuses on the "glorious past" rather than on the state's crimes against its own citizens.

Today, the Russian authorities claim the opposite: research work on historical memory is a threat to the state.

In 2021, when Memorial was liquidated, President [Vladimir Putin](#) said that Memorial was trying to protect those who are included in the list of terrorists and extremists in Russia. The prosecutor's office also called it a threat to society, accusing the organization of using Western money to focus on the crimes of the Soviet Union instead of celebrating "our glorious past."

Memorial, Andrei Sakharov and the EU Sakharov Prize

[The history of Memorial](#) began with the emergence of an initiative group in Moscow, which first aimed to perpetuate the memory of the victims of political repression under Stalin. Similar groups subsequently began to appear in other parts of the USSR.

This movement was closely associated with the famous academician Andrei Sakharov (May 1921 – December 1989) who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975 for defending human rights around the world.

In 1988, after his internal exile (1980-1986) to Gorky (now Nizhny Novgorod) with his wife Elena Bonner, he became the chairman of Memorial.

The official registration of Memorial in all the republics of the Russian Federation took place after Sakharov's death in 1989 in April 1991. It was then the condition put forward by his widow to accept the proposal of Soviet Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev to succeed him at the head of Memorial.

For decades, Memorial has preserved the memory of the victims of Stalin's repressions in the Soviet Union and has protected human rights in the Russian Federation since its creation in 1991.

It was this combination that made Memorial unique: the organization not only studied the past, but also highlighted its connection with modern political repression.

In 1988, the European Parliament created the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought and then awarded it to Nelson Mandela (South Africa) and Anatoli Marchenko (Soviet Union).

Since then the Prize has been attributed to another laureate every year on 10 December, UN Human Rights Day, in an official ceremony in the European Parliament.

International recognition and Nobel Prize

In 2022, Memorial was awarded the [Nobel Peace Prize](#).

For Memorial, this was an official recognition that it was not just a Russian non-governmental organization, but an important institution for the protection of human dignity and historical truth.

On 10 December 2022, Jan Rachinsky delivered the Nobel Peace Prize lecture "Peace, memory, freedom" on behalf of Memorial at the Oslo City Hall in Norway.

He stressed that Memorial had been in existence for 35 years, and had groups working in many regions of Russia, in Ukraine, and in several countries of Western Europe.

And he added "The Nobel Peace Prize is a tribute to each of these organizations, to each of the thousands of people taking part in the activities of Memorial – their members, colleagues, volunteers, participants in public actions. This tribute is for them, and for those from Memorial who are no longer with us, in particular those people who did so much in the founding of Memorial and made it what it is today: [Andrei Sakharov](#), Arseny Roginsky, Sergei Kovalyov, and many others. This prize is theirs."

This is the European spiritual legacy "made in Russia" that President Putin smashed with the banning of Memorial and his war on Ukraine.

A stand-up comedian sentenced to 5 years and 9 months in prison

HRWF (30.03.2026) - In early February, the Meshchansky District Court of Moscow sentenced comedian Artemy Ostanin to five years and nine months in prison and a fine of 300,000 rubles (more than 3000 euros) on charges of inciting hatred (paragraph "c" of Part 2 of Article 282 of the Criminal Code) and insulting the feelings of believers (Part 1 of Article 148 of the Criminal Code). This was reported by "[Mediazona](#)".

His trial against Ostanin began on 12 January 2026, required four hearings and came to an end in February.

The first reason for the criminal prosecution was the comedian's performance of the monologue of a disabled man without legs, who was blown up by a mine...

Although he did not refer at all to the war in Ukraine, his subliminal message did not escape censorship. For them, it was the public manifestation of anti-war feelings. Activists of the pro-government movement "Call of the People" contended that the comedian was ridiculing a Russian soldier who lost his legs in the war in Ukraine. They denounced him to the Investigative Committee and the Prosecutor General's Office.

The second reason for his sentence was that he had insulted the feelings of believers because of one of his jokes about Christ. In an imaginary dialogue between Jesus Christ and himself, he was saying "I brought good news to people, and do you know what they did? Well, they crucified me." This was reported by "[Mediazona](#)"

Ostanin pleaded not guilty and insisted on acquittal. He was not followed by the judges.

Ostanin on the run arrested in Belarus and deported to Russia

The comedian was arrested on the border between Russia and Belarus on 18 March 2025. In court, Ostanin **said** that on the way to Russia, security forces from Belarus stopped his car in the forest, beat him with truncheons, a sandbag and a stun gun. They also cut off his dreadlocks with a knife and threatened to cut his throat.

Ostanin's lawyer said that he got broken ribs and a fractured spine.

In addition, the Belarusian Siloviki telegram channel published a photo of a shorn comedian with a meat grinder around his neck after the arrest. Probably, the meat grinder was used as a reference to his joke that Murmansk United Russia gave to the mothers of dead soldiers. The meat grinder was a reference to [the comedian's joke \(Link to his show on YouTube\)](#) that Murmansk United Russia **presented** meat grinders to the mothers of the dead military on March 8, Woman's Day.

Joke about a disabled man without legs

<https://youtu.be/KqvKODGwtBA?si=Sw6nxCeDNIAbpBmX>

Joke about Jesus Christ

<https://youtube.com/shorts/lxGW25UXvEE?si=HM88L11aXd3bHjZy>

Some comments about the meat grinder metaphor

The comedian plays on this tragic metaphor by saying that lawmakers of Putin's party (United Russia) in Murmansk decided to give meat grinders to the mothers of fallen soldiers on March 8 (Woman's Day, a holiday when women in Russia traditionally receive gifts, the equivalent of Mother's Day in Western Europe). The subliminal message of the comedian is that Putin gives them an instrument he has himself used to send their sons to death.

Its meaning refers to the so-called "special military operation" of Putin and to the mothers of soldiers who died in Ukraine. In a figurative sense, it means that these sons were "thrown into a meat grinder."

In the photograph below on the right, the comedian wears a meat grinder around his neck. The point is that this image, and the humiliation of the person depicted in it, were the work of officers of the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and published on their website.

Prison terms for 'foreign agents' and supporters of an opposition movement

By Willy Fautré, director of Human Rights Without Frontiers

HRWF (23.03.2026) – One of the key areas of repressive policies implemented in February 2026 concerned the measures applied to the so-called "foreign agents". This status is regulated by the [Federal Law "On Control over the Activities of Persons Under Foreign Influence"](#), adopted in 2022 and significantly expanded by subsequent amendments afterwards.

About the law targeting "foreign agents"

According to Russian law, any individual or organization that, in the opinion of the authorities, receives **foreign support** or is **under foreign influence** and at the same time carries out the so-called "activities of public interest" can be recognized as a "foreign agent".

Noteworthy is that **foreign support** is understood not only as direct funding, but also as other extremely broadly interpreted forms of interaction with foreign structures or persons. The law defines "political activity" extremely broadly. In particular, it includes:

- public statements about the actions of the authorities;
- participation in public discussions, debates, public opinion polls;
- dissemination of information through the media or the Internet;
- activities in the field of protection of human rights and freedoms;
- participation in electoral processes or their monitoring.

In fact, journalists, human rights defenders, activists, bloggers, scientists and cultural figures may fall under the law, even if their activities are not aimed at supporting any political forces and are carried out exclusively for public or professional purposes.

Persons recognized as "foreign agents" are obliged to:

1. regularly report to state authorities on their activities and finances;
2. mark all published materials with a special indication of their status;
3. notify partners, employers and even private contractors about their status;
4. in some cases, use special bank accounts with a limited regime for the disposal of funds.

Violation of these requirements entails administrative and criminal liability. In particular, [Article 330.1 of the Criminal Code](#) of the Russian Federation provides for criminal penalties for **evading the duties of a foreign agent, including fines and imprisonment**. In practice, this means that even formal or minor violations of reporting or labeling can become grounds for criminal prosecution.

Human rights organizations note that the institution of "foreign agents" in Russia has **lost touch with the idea of transparency** and has turned into a tool for stigmatizing and putting pressure on independent voices, restricting freedom of expression, association and participation in public life.

The case of political scientist Mikhail Savva in Krasnodar

In January, the Sovetsky District Court of Krasnodar found the political scientist Mikhail Savva guilty of evading the duties of a "foreign agent" (Part 2 of Article 330.1 of the Criminal Code), sentencing him to 3.5 years in prison and a fine of 70 thousand rubles (about 700 euros). The verdict was passed taking into account the punishment imposed in a previous case:

[Krasnodar political scientist Mikhail Savva was sentenced in absentia to 3.5 years in prison under a "foreign agent" article](#)

[Краснодарского политолога Михаила Савву заочно осудили на 3,5 года колонии по «иноагентской» статье](#)

Earlier in 2014, Savva was sentenced [to 3 years in prison on a suspended sentence](#) in a case of fraud (Article 159 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation). The security

forces accused him of embezzling 366,000 rubles allocated from the budget for a sociological study of attitudes towards migrants, as well as receiving money for a course of lectures at the Kuban State University, which he allegedly did not read.

Human rights defenders recognized the persecution as politically motivated. They noted that Savva investigated violations during NGO inspections in the Krasnodar Territory. Because of this case, Savva spent [about 8 months in a pre-trial detention center](#).

Savva had been living in Ukraine since 2015, where he received [refugee status](#).

After the departure of the political scientist from Russia, his suspended sentence was replaced [with a real one](#), and [a new criminal case of fraud](#) was opened against him. This time he was accused of embezzling 150 thousand rubles allocated to his training center "Levados" from the regional budget for holding seminars. The state law enforcement agencies claimed that the classes were not held in full, and some teachers, who received honoraria according to the documents, did not give lectures and actually did not receive money.

In October 2023, [Savva](#) was included with others in the [list of foreign agents](#). After that, he was repeatedly fined in administrative cases for violating the "foreign agent" legislation (Article 19.34 of the Code of Administrative).

Support to opposition movements prosecuted by military courts

Among other repressive norms of criminal legislation applied in February 2026, cases of prosecution under **Articles 205.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation ("Assistance to terrorist activities")** and **282.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation ("Financing of extremist activities")** were also recorded. At the same time, we are talking about the preservation of the practice of using broad anti-terrorist and anti-extremist norms as tools of criminal prosecution.

[Pensioner sentenced to 9 years in prison in the case of donations to "Artpodgotovka"](#)

[Пенсионера приговорили к девяти годам колонии по делу о донатах «Артподготовке»](#)

The 2nd Eastern District Military Court sentenced 63-year-old Krasnoyarsk resident Sergei Ninikin to nine years in prison. This was reported by [«Mediazona»](#) with reference to the press service of the court.

The man was found guilty under articles on financing an extremist organization and assisting terrorist activities (Part 1 of Article 282.3 of the Criminal Code and Part 1 of Article 205.1 of the Criminal Code).

From 2021 to March 2024, Ninikin made more than 40 transfers in the amount of 95 thousand rubles (about 1000 euros) "in favor of an extremist organization, later recognized as also terrorist."

This organization was the "Artpodgotovka Movement", created by supporters of politician Vyacheslav Maltsev, who ran a YouTube channel of the same name. The main thesis of the Artpodgotovka ideology was the belief in the inevitability of the revolution on 5 November 2017. He was elected three-time at the Saratov regional Duma (1994, 1997 and 2002).

A few days before the announced revolution, the court recognized Artpodgotovka [as an extremist organization](#). Hundreds of his supporters were arrested in many cities of the

country but Maltsev managed to escape. [Criminal cases](#) were opened against dozens of them.

In 2021, Artpodgotovka [was included in the list](#) of terrorist organizations.

The main thesis of the Artpodgotovka ideology was the belief in the inevitability of the revolution on 5 November 2017. However, despite this, on 26 October 2017, the Krasnoyarsk Regional Court recognized the MOD "Artpodgotovka" as extremist and banned its activities on the territory of the Russian Federation.

It was also the time when Alexei Navalny's movement was very popular in Russia. A year before, he had announced his entry into the presidential race to be held in 2018.

Three anti-fascists sentenced to prison terms of 2 ½ to 9 years

An example among many on how the anti-extremist legislation is abused and manipulated in Russia

By Willy Fautré, director of Human Rights Without Frontiers

HRWF (16.03.2026) - While Vladimir Putin is fighting the allegedly Nazi state of Ukraine, he is hunting the anti-fascists in his own country as the Izmailovsky District Court of Moscow has recently shown with its sentencing of three anti-fascists to prison terms of 2 ½, 3 ½ and 9 years. This was reported on 2 February 2026 by "[Ostorozhno novosti](#)".

The Antifa United case

[Three anti-fascists were sentenced to terms ranging from 2.5 to 9 years in prison in the Antifa United case](#)

[Троих антифашистов приговорили к срокам от 2,5 до 9 лет колонии по делу Antifa United](#)

- 26-year-old Bogdan Yakimenko was sentenced to 9 years in a general regime colony with a subsequent ban on administering Internet resources for a period of 7 years.
- 20-year-old Roman Chizhikov was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison.
- 24-year-old Ilya Popov was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison.

Another defendant in the case, Matvey Ostrovsky, died during the trial. The court found him guilty and terminated the criminal prosecution on non-rehabilitative grounds. The court found them guilty of

- **organizing an extremist community, involving other persons in their activities** (Part 1 and Part 2 of Article 282.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation),
- **hooliganism** (Part 2 of Article 213 of the Criminal Code).

The charge of participation in an "extremist community" was a backbone element of the case and determined the severity of the punishments imposed.

The investigating authorities qualified as an extremist community the anti-fascist group **Antifa United** whose activities were based on public rejection of Nazi ideology. Such

qualification raises serious doubts from the point of view of both the factual circumstances of the case and the current legislation of the Russian Federation.

According to Russian criminal law, crimes of an extremist nature presuppose the existence of political, ideological, racial, national or religious hatred or enmity against a social group. However, within the framework of this case, persons adhering to the neo-Nazi ideology were designated as a "social group" recognized as the injured party.

Thus, the law enforcement practice in this case actually led to the recognition of neo-Nazis as victims of extremism, while anti-fascist activities were criminalized and presented as extremist. Such an approach distorts the very legal nature of the concept of extremism and calls into question the compliance of the sentence with both national legislation and international human rights standards.

Anti-fascism as a motive

The convicts positioned themselves as anti-fascists. Bogdan Yakymenko, a school graduate with a gold medal and an excellent university student, openly said in his lengthy [interview on YouTube](#) that he considers the fight against neo-Nazism to be the most important cause of his life.

Yakymenko emphasized that his stance was a deliberate anti-fascist choice rather than an endorsement of any foreign political agenda.

He claimed that there are neo-Nazi groups in Russia and drew attention to the problem of the spread of ultra-right views among certain representatives of law enforcement and government agencies.

In the same interview, journalists Dmitry Okrest and Sergei Vilkov, themselves members of the left-wing movement, were present.

The topic under discussion in the [interview on YouTube](#) was: Why are anti-fascists persecuted in a country that claims to "defeat fascism" and how did the security forces used right-wing groups to carry out attacks against the opposition?

The essence of the charges

The three episodes at the heart of the case date back to 2021-2022.

According to the investigation:

1. in April 2021, near Chongarsky Boulevard (Moscow, Russia), Yakimenko and Ostrovsky demanded that a passerby take off a T-shirt with a picture of a man who looked like Adolf Hitler, threatening him with a gavel,
2. in June 2021, Ostrovsky and Popov sprayed pepper spray and fired a gas pistol at two young people of "right-wing views",
3. in the spring of 2022, Chizhikov hit a man in the Gallery Airport shopping center (Moscow, Russia) after refusing to remove the bag of the Thor Steinar brand, widely associated with the far-right subculture.

The investigation interpreted these episodes as evidence of the creation of an "extremist community," whose members allegedly planned attacks "motivated by hatred of a social group."

Detentions and pressure

Despite the fact that the episodes date back to 2021-2022, the detentions took place only in the summer of 2024. Yakimenko was detained in Rostov-on-Don, where he studied at the university, and placed in a pre-trial detention center. The rest of the defendants were initially under house arrest or recognizance not to leave.

According to [No Future](#), the special services have been monitoring the activities of the defendants for a long time. They had been communicating since 2019.

Also, No Future and [the Antifaru channel](#) report that violence was used against young people during the arrest and the investigation. At least one of the defendants was tortured with a stun gun.

It is reported that the security forces pressed them to give up the assistance of lawyers, threatening with a harsher punishment, claiming "If you have a lawyer, you will go to jail immediately and that for a long time," representatives of the special services were quoted as saying.

In December 2025, Yakimenko was taken to court [with a broken arm](#) . The circumstances of the injury remain unknown.

"Pro-Ukrainian anarcho-Marxism" and expertise

In a separate section of the accusation, the participants of Antifa United were said to profess "pro-Ukrainian anarcho-Marxism." That legal basis relied on the conclusions of expert Roman Silantyev, whose analyses have previously been used in several politically sensitive cases.

Silantyev pointed out that the group is "pro-Ukrainian", referring to the testimony of one of the defendants, and Yakimenko's alleged Ukrainian origin. Yakymenko himself categorically denied any connection with Ukraine, stating that he had never been there. He also explained that the tattoo with the inscription "Сичь" (Sich, written in Russian) had nothing to do with the "Запорізька Січ" (Zaporizhzhian Sich, written in Ukrainian), but represented the Don's Russian symbols associated with the territories along the Don River.)

["Silantyev's qualification is dubious and unworthy of discussion"](#) Yakimenko argued in court. However, the judges rejected his arguments.

Blood pressure and confessions

Popov and Chizhikov pleaded guilty. At the same time, Chizhikov stated in court that [he testified under the dictation of the investigator](#), but formally did not refuse it.

The investigation claimed that Yakimenko was engaged in the administration of the **Antifa United**. He denied this, pointing out that he was only a subscriber, and one of the publications imputed to him was posted at the time when he was in the Omsk pre-trial detention center.

Death of the defendant

Matvey Ostrovsky died during the consideration of the case. The official causes of death were not disclosed. Despite this, the court found him guilty and terminated the criminal prosecution on non-rehabilitative grounds.

Verdict

The court imposed real terms of imprisonment - up to 9 years in prison. Actions motivated by an anti-fascist position and directed, according to the defendants, against manifestations of neo-Nazism, were qualified as the creation of an extremist community.

The factual circumstances of the case reveal several indicators suggesting potential political motivation, including:

1. an expansive interpretation of anti-extremism legislation;
2. the reliance on disputed or controversial expert examinations;
3. allegations of torture and other forms of pressure exerted on the accused; and
4. a significant temporal gap between the alleged incidents and the subsequent arrests."

The **Antifa United** case is an example among many of how anti-extremist norms of the Russian law are abusively applied.

Russia's anti-fascism and the Antifa United

Anti-fascism in Russia did not begin as a grassroots movement the way it later appeared in Western Europe. It emerged mainly as a **state ideology in the Soviet Union**, especially during the 1930s–1940s.

After **1989–1991**, the official Soviet anti-fascist ideology did not disappear; it **changed form and meaning** as the Soviet system collapsed. Instead of being a purely communist ideological doctrine, it gradually became a **state narrative about World War II, national unity, and legitimacy** in post-Soviet Russia.

In the 1990s, Russian anti-fascism declined as a state ideology while grassroots antifa movements started to rise. In the 2000s, Putin revived the ideology as a state patriotic narrative centered on Moscow's victory of the Great Patriotic WWII. In the last 15 years, Putin has increasingly used anti-fascism in politics, historical memory laws and foreign rhetoric.

Antifa United is the name of a closed group on the social network VKontakte, which served as a showcase for the online store of the clothing brand of the same name. It sought to popularize anti-fascist ideas among youth subcultures.

Antifa United, as a **Russian anti-fascist network, has been operating since about 2020**, mostly online. It grew out of the broader Russian antifa subculture, rather than as part or a dissident group of state anti-fascism.

In April 2024, [the Astra telegram channel](#) reported that the Moscow Center "E" (Federal Center for Countering Extremism of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia) had launched an investigation about the closed VKontakte group Antifa United, which consists of more than 4.5 thousand people. The authorities then started to conduct **arrests** and charged members with **organizing an extremist community**.

The group as such is now banned and widely considered **dissolved in Russia**.

Source of the information: [OVD-Info](#) (Russia)

[A call for help from OVD-Info](#)

Sentenced to prison for criticizing the President, state bodies & their policies

How the anti-terrorist legislation is abused in Russian military courts

By Willy Fautré, director of Human Rights Without Frontiers

HRWF (03.09.2026) – In February 2026, several Russian citizens were prosecuted on the basis of **Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation: "Public calls for terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism."**

We present hereafter three recent cases publicized by [OVD-Info](#) and [Mediazona](#), two organizations working now from outside Russia but with an active network of lawyers and human rights defenders inside their country.

Case 1: Additional six years in prison for Navalny's ex-photographer

[The ex-photographer of Navalny's headquarters was extended the term by an additional 1.5 years because of the death wish to Putin](#)

[Экс-фотографу штаба Навального увеличили срок из-за пожелания смерти Путину](#)

On 26 February 2026, the 2nd Western District Military Court issued a second sentence against photographer Alexander Strukov, sentencing him to 6 years in prison on charges of calling for terrorism (**Part 2 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code**).

The reason for Strukov's next criminal prosecution was his statement in the courtroom in 2023 after the announcement of the verdict in the first criminal case. Strukov shouted: "Glory to Ukraine! Death to Putin!" State prosecutor Svetlana Tarasova [insisted](#) that wishing death to Putin was a call for terrorist activity.

In February 2026, in court, Strukov said that he was not ashamed of his words and did not admit guilt. "[This is a political statement](#) guaranteeing the end of the war, not implying real action," he said.

Strukov has been imprisoned since January 2022. The first repressive sentence against him was handed down in November 2023. He was convicted for [commenting on the Telegram channel](#) of the Znak.com publication, in which he wrote, in particular: "Glory to Ukraine", "Down with the power of the Chekists", "Good morning everyone, down with Putin!". This became the basis for qualifying his actions as calls for terrorism (**Part 2 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code**) and incitement to hatred (**Part 2 of Article 282 of the Criminal Code**).

It should also be noted that, according to OVD-INFO, Strukov is being [harassed](#) in the colony where he is serving his sentence. He was repeatedly placed in a prison punishment cell, which is used as an instrument of pressure. His detention conditions are considered the harshest in the prison system. Despite the fact that Strukov has asthma and chronic bronchitis, he [was sent to mandatory work](#) on the production of tiles. After that, he developed [inflammation](#) on his face, hands and feet.

Case 2: A two-year prison sentence for a left-wing student

[In St. Petersburg, a student was sentenced to 2 years in prison because of his speech at a meeting of left-wing activists](#)

[В Петербурге студента приговорили к реальному сроку из-за выступления на собрании левых активистов](#)

On 11 February 2026, the 1st Western District Military Court sentenced political science student Garry Azaryan to two years in prison on **charges of justification of terrorism (Part 1 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code)** in "the case of the Trotskyist students", according to "[Bumaga](#)".

On 6 January 2025, Harry Azarian, a 23-year-old political scientist student and a citizen of Kazakhstan, made a speech at the Working Power Congress, a meeting of left-wing activists, in St Petersburg.

He [was arrested](#) on 16 May 2025 and remanded in custody pending trial. His comrades suspect that there may have been an agent provocateur in the organization.

In court, Azaryan pleaded guilty and "repented." His lawyer asked for a fine to be imposed and the student's father said he was ready to pay it.

The nearly eight months he spent in pretrial detention could be taken into consideration to reduce his sentence.

In January 2026, he [was released](#) from the pre-trial detention center under a ban on certain actions due to the reclassification of the charge.

[Mediazona](#) found out that he was accused of justifying terrorism because of his speech at a meeting of left-wing activists with arguments about class hatred and violence. A source familiar with the content of his speech told Mediazona that the young man "essentially repeated the Marxist view" on the development of society: the growth of contradictions and discontent sooner or later leads to revolutions, and they rarely do so without violence.

Case 3: An oncologist sentenced to 5 years ½

[An oncologist from St. Petersburg was sentenced to 5.5 years in prison because of calls to hang the Russian leadership](#)

[Онколога из Петербурга осудили на 5,5 лет колонии из-за призывов повесить российское руководство](#)

On 4 February 2026, the 1st Western District Military Court found Yegor Voshchinin, a 51-year-old doctor at the Petrov Oncology Center, guilty of **calling for terrorism (Part 2 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code)**. This was reported by the [press service of the courts of St. Petersburg](#). He was sentenced to 5.5 years in prison with a ban on publishing on the Internet for 2 years.

Voshchinin [has been in custody](#) since July 2025. Before his arrest, he was responsible for four children and a disabled father.

The reason for his persecution was the publication of [comments in Telegram](#) in 2023-2024. As the press service of the court reported, Voshchinin called for "hanging the Russian leadership". During one of the court hearings, it had been noted that the [State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin and President Vladimir Putin were mentioned in these comments](#).

About Part 2 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code

This article of the Criminal Code provides for criminal liability for:

1. **public calls for terrorist activities;**
2. **public justification of terrorism** - a public statement on the recognition of the ideology of terrorism;
3. **propaganda of terrorism** is the activity of disseminating materials and (or) information aimed at forming in a person the ideology of terrorism, conviction in its attractiveness or the idea of the admissibility of terrorist activity.

Noteworthy is that Part 2 of Article 205.2 separately provides for tougher liability for the above actions, if the crime is committed with the help of the media, electronic or information and telecommunication networks, including the Internet.

The qualification of incitement, public justification, and justification of terrorism is based on the concept of terrorism (terrorist activity) defined by law, namely, the commission of at least one of the crimes provided for in a number of articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, including:

- an act of terrorism,
- hostage-taking,
- organizing an illegal armed formation or participating in it,
- vehicle theft,
- illicit trafficking in nuclear materials,
- encroaching on the life of the state or on public figures,
- forcible seizure or retention of power,
- armed rebellion,
- acts of international terrorism.

Conclusions

Law enforcement practice shows that Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation has received the most widespread and problematic application as a tool for criminal prosecution of persons expressing disagreement with state policy. In practice, the grounds for initiating criminal cases are often publications on social networks, comments, reposts, as well as oral public statements that do not contain calls for violence, but are interpreted by the investigating authorities as justification or propaganda of terrorism.

The implementation of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation was predominantly used in the cases identified and collected by the Russian OVD-Info and Mediazona in February 2026. An analysis of these cases allows us to identify abusive trends in the broad interpretation of criminal law norms and to question their compliance with the international standards.

Political repression in January 2026: At least 9 Russians sentenced to almost 45-year prison terms (EN/RU)

Политические репрессии в январе 2026 года: не менее 9 россиян приговорены к лишению свободы на общий срок более 45 лет (EN/RU)

Click on the title to read the full article/ Нажмите на заголовок, чтобы прочитать статью полностью

HRWF (10.02.2026) - On the basis of the research of the Russian association [OVD-Info](#), we have identified 9 cases of Russian citizens sentenced for political reasons to effective prison terms from 2,5 to 7 years (almost 45 years in total) in January 2026 and serving them in various detention centres. These statistics do not claim to be exhaustive but only reflect a part of the reality.

На основе исследований российского объединения ОВД-Инфо в январе 2026 года нами выявлено 9 случаев политически мотивированного осуждения граждан России к реальным срокам лишения свободы на срок от 2,5 до 7 лет (всего более 45 лет) и отбывания ими наказания в различных учреждениях исполнения наказания. Приведенная статистика не претендует на полноту, а лишь отражает часть реальности.

30.01.2026

[A physicist from the Leningrad region was sentenced to 7 years in prison in the case of anti-war comments](#)

[Физика из Ленинградской области осудили на 7 лет колонии по делу об антивоенных комментариях](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred with the use of official position on the grounds of political, ideological hatred or enmity, or on the grounds of hatred or enmity).

29.01.2026

[A resident of the Pskov region was sentenced to 5 years in prison because of a comment in support of the "Russian Volunteer Corps"](#)

[Жителя Псковской области осудили на пять лет колонии из-за комментария в поддержку РДК](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

26.01.2026

[Kirov resident sentenced to 6 years in prison because of comments about the war in Ukraine](#)

[Кировчанина осудили на шесть лет колонии из-за комментариев о войне в Украине](#)

Art. 354.1, part 4 of the Criminal Code (Rehabilitation of Nazism. Insulting the memory of the defenders of the Fatherland, as well as desecrating the symbols of the military glory of Russia committed publicly using the Internet)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred with the use of official position on the grounds of political, ideological hatred or enmity, or on the grounds of hatred or enmity).

22.01.2026

[Izhevsk resident, who moves in a wheelchair, was sentenced to 5.5 years in prison because of a comment about Putin and the FSB](#)

[Ижевчанина, передвигающегося на коляске, осудили на 5,5 лет колонии из-за комментария о Путине и ФСБ](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

21.01.2026

[Saxophonist from Samara was sentenced to 6 years in prison in the case of posts about the war](#)

[Саксофонисту из Самары утвердили шесть лет колонии по делу о постах про войну](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

Art. 280.4, part 2, paragraphs "c" of the Criminal Code (Public calls for activities against the security of the state using the Internet)

[A resident of Akhtubinsk was convicted in the third criminal case of discrediting the army for 2 years and 8 months in prison](#)

[Жителя Ахтубинска осудили по третьему уголовному делу о дискредитации армии](#)

Art. 280.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Публичные действия, направленные на дискредитацию использования Вооруженных Сил Российской Федерации)

[A 17-year-old St. Petersburg woman was sentenced to 4 years in prison because of a photo of the participants of the Russian Volunteer Corps on a school stand](#)

[17-летнюю петербурженку приговорили к 4 годам колонии из-за фото участников РДК на школьном стенде](#)

Art. 205.1 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Inducement, recruitment or other involvement of a person in the commission of at least one of the crimes related to terrorist activity)

Art. 205.2 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Public calls for terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism)

19.01.2026

[A Muscovite was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison because of the Glory to Ukraine tattoos and the Azov emblem](#)

[Москвичку отправили в колонию из-за татуировок Glory to Ukraine и эмблемы «Азова»](#)

Art. 282.4 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Propaganda or public demonstration of Nazi paraphernalia or symbols, or paraphernalia or symbols similar to Nazi paraphernalia or symbols)

16.01.2026

[A 19-year-old resident of the occupied village was sentenced to 5 years and 6 months in prison because of comments about the war, "Put" and "Rusnya"](#)

[19-летнего жителя оккупированного села осудили из-за комментариев про войну, «Путь» и «русню»](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

Art. 280 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public Calls for Extremist Activity Using the Internet)

Workers from Bangladesh sought jobs in Russia but got sent to war in Ukraine

By [SAMYA KULLAB](#)

[AP News](#) (27.01.2026) - A labor recruiter persuaded Maksudur Rahman to leave the tropical warmth of his hometown [in Bangladesh](#) and travel thousands of miles to frigid Russia for a job as a janitor.

Within weeks, he found himself on the [front lines of Russia's war in Ukraine](#).

An Associated Press investigation found that Bangladeshi workers were lured to Russia under the false promise of civilian work, only to be thrust into the chaos of [combat in Ukraine](#). Many were threatened with violence, imprisonment or death.

AP spoke with three Bangladeshi men who escaped from the Russian military, including Rahman, who said that after arriving [in Moscow](#), he and a group of fellow Bangladeshi workers were told to sign Russian documents that turned out to be military contracts. They were taken to an army camp for training in drone warfare techniques, medical evacuation procedures and basic combat skills using heavy weapons.

Rahman protested, complaining that this was not the work he agreed to do. A Russian commander offered a stark reply through a translation app: "Your agent sent you here. We bought you."

The three Bangladeshi men shared harrowing accounts of being coerced into front-line tasks against their will, including advancing ahead of Russian forces, transporting supplies, evacuating wounded soldiers and recovering the dead. The families of three other Bangladeshi men who are missing said their loved ones shared similar accounts with relatives.

Neither the Russian Defense Ministry, the Russian Foreign Ministry nor the South Asian country's government responded to a list of questions from AP.

Rahman said the workers in his group were threatened with 10-year jail terms and beaten.

"They'd say, 'Why don't you work? Why are you crying?' and kick us," said Rahman, who escaped and returned home after seven months.

The workers' accounts were corroborated by documents, including travel papers, Russian military contracts, medical and police reports, and photos. The documents show the visas granted to Bangladeshi workers, their injuries sustained during battles and evidence of their participation in the war.

How many Bangladeshis were deceived into fighting is unclear. The Bangladeshi men told AP they saw hundreds of Bangladeshis alongside Russian forces in Ukraine.

Officials and activists say Russia has also targeted men [from other African and South Asian countries](#), including India and Nepal.

Overseas work supports Bangladeshi families

In the lush greenery of the Lakshmipur district in southeast Bangladesh, nearly every family has at least one member employed as a migrant worker overseas. Job scarcity and poverty have made such work essential.

Fathers embark on yearslong journeys for migrant work, returning home only for fleeting visits, just long enough to conceive another child, whom they will likely not see again for years. Sons and daughters support entire families with income earned abroad.

In 2024, Rahman was back in Lakshmipur after completing a contract in Malaysia and seeking new work. A labor recruiter advertised an opportunity to work as a cleaner in a military camp in Russia. He promised \$1,000 to \$1,500 a month and the possibility of permanent residency.

Rahman took out a loan to pay the fee of 1.2 million Bangladeshi taka, about \$9,800, to the broker as a fee. He arrived in Moscow in December 2024.

Basic training, then the battlefield

Once in Russia, Rahman and three other Bangladeshi workers were presented with a document in Russian. Believing it was a contract for cleaning services, Rahman signed.

Then they went to a military facility far from Moscow, where they were issued weapons and underwent three days of training, learning to fire, advance and administer first aid. The group went to a barrack near the Russia-Ukraine border and continued training.

Rahman and two others were then sent to front-line positions and ordered to dig pits inside a bunker.

"The Russians would take a group of say, five Bangladeshis. They would send us in front and stay at the back themselves," he said.

The men stayed in a leaky bunker in the rain as bombs fell a few kilometers away. Missiles flew overhead.

One person was serving food. "The next moment, he was shot from a drone and fell to the ground right there. And then he was replaced," Rahman said.

Promises of jobs far from the front

Some Bangladeshi workers were lured into the army with promises of positions far from the front line.

Mohan Miajee enlisted in the Russian army after the job that initially brought him to Russia — serving as an electrician for a gas-processing plant in the remote far east — was plagued by harsh working conditions and relentless cold.

While searching for employment online, Miajee was contacted by a Russian army recruiter. When he expressed his reluctance to kill, the recruiter said his skills as an electrician made him an ideal candidate for an electronic warfare or drone unit that would be nowhere near combat.

With his military papers in order, Miajee was taken in January 2025 to a military camp in the captured city of Avdiivka. He showed the camp commander documents describing his experience and explained that his recruiter had instructed him to ask for “electrical work.”

“The commander told me, ‘You have been made to sign a contract to join the battalion. You cannot do any other work here. You have been deceived,’” he said after returning to his village of Munshiganj.

Miajee said he was beaten with shovels, handcuffed and tortured in a cramped basement cell, and held there every time he refused to carry out an order or made a small mistake.

Because of language barriers, for example, “if they told us to go to the right and we went to the left, they would beat us severely,” he said.

He was made to carry supplies to the front and collect dead bodies.

Meanwhile in Rahman’s unit, some weeks later, they were instructed to evacuate a Russian soldier with a wounded leg. The men carried him, but no sooner had they left the position than they saw a Ukrainian drone buzzing above. It fired at them. Then more drones came in a swarm.

Rahman could not advance or return to the bunker. A Russian soldier guiding them said land mines were everywhere.

He was stuck, and the Russian commander fled.

Rahman eventually suffered a leg wound that sent him to a hospital near Moscow. He escaped from the medical center and went directly to the Bangladeshi embassy in Moscow, which prepared a travel pass for him to leave the country.

Some months later, Rahman helped his brother-in-law Jehangir Alam, who also spoke with AP, run away using the same method — leaving the hospital after being wounded and appealing to the embassy.

Families long to learn about missing men

Families in Lakshmipur hold tightly to the documents of their missing loved ones, believing that one day, when presented to the right person, the papers might unlock the path to their return.

The documents included photos of Russian business visas, military contracts and army dog tags. The papers were sent by the missing men, who urged relatives to complain to recruiting agents.

The contracts were verified by two Russian groups helping men evade or get out of military service. Maj. Vladimir Yaltsev, head of the Kostroma regional recruitment center for contract military service, is listed as signing the contracts on behalf of the Russian military.

In their final messages, these husbands, sons and fathers conveyed to relatives that they were being forcibly taken to the front lines in Ukraine. After that, all communication ceased.

The families filed a complaint with police in Dhaka and traveled on three occasions to the capital to pressure the government to investigate.

Salma Akdar has not heard from her husband since March 26. In their last conversation, Ajar Hussein, 40, told her he had been sold to the Russian army. The couple has two sons, ages 7 and 11.

Hussein left in mid-December 2024, believing he was being offered a job as a laundry attendant in Russia, his wife said. He had recently returned from Saudi Arabia and planned to stop working overseas for a spell, she explained. But believing Russia offered opportunities to make money, he left again. He sold some of his land to pay the agent's fees.

For two weeks, he was in regular touch. Then he told his wife he was being taken to an army camp where they were trained to use weapons and carry heavy loads up to 80 kilograms (176 pounds). "Seeing all this, he cried a lot and told them, 'We cannot do these things. We have never done this before,'" his wife said.

For two months after that, he was offline. He reappeared briefly to explain they were being forced to fight in the war.

Russian commanders "told him that if he did not go, they would detain him, shoot him, stop providing food," she said.

Families in the village confronted the recruiting agent, demanding to know why their loved ones were being trained for war. The agent replied dismissively, saying that it was standard procedure in Russia, insisting that even launderers had to undergo similar training.

Hussein left a final audio note for his wife: "Please pray for me."

Son expected to work as a chef

Mohammed Siraj's 20-year-old son, Sajjad, departed believing he would be working as a chef in Russia. He needed to support his unemployed father and chronically ill mother.

Siraj wept as he described his son begging him to ask the agent why he was being made to undergo military training. Sajjad fought with his Russian commanders, insisting he had come to be a chef, not to fight. They threatened him with jail if he did not comply. Then someone else threatened to shoot him, his father recalled.

Sajjad called the family and said he was being taken to battle. "That is the last message from my son," he said.

In February, Siraj learned through a Bangladeshi man serving with Sajjad that his son had been killed in a drone attack. Unable to bear telling his wife the truth, Siraj assured her that their son was doing well. But word spread through the village.

"You lied to me," Siraj recalled her saying as she confronted him. Soon after, she died, calling out for her son in her final moments.

Investigation uncovers network of intermediaries

In late 2024, families approached BRAC, an organization that advocates for Bangladeshi workers, and said they could no longer reach their relatives in Russia. That prompted the organization to investigate. It uncovered at least 10 Bangladeshi men who are still missing after they were lured to fight.

"There are two or three layers of people who are profiting," said Shariful Islam, the head of BRAC's migration program.

Bangladesh police investigators uncovered a trafficking ring in Russia after a Bangladeshi man returned in January 2025, alleging he had been deceived into fighting. The police believe that similar networks, operated by Bangladeshi intermediaries with connections to the Russian government, are responsible for facilitating the entry of Bangladeshis into Russia.

Another nine people were discovered to have been lured into fighting based on that police investigation, according to investigator Mostafizur Rahman. The Associated Press reviewed the police report filed by one victim's wife, who said he went to Russia expecting to work in a chocolate factory. A middleman, a Bangladeshi with Russian citizenship who was residing in Moscow, has been charged.

It's not clear how many Bangladeshis were lured to Russia. The investigator told AP that about 40 Bangladeshis may have lost their lives in the war.

Some go willingly, knowing they will end up on the front lines because the money is too good, he said.

In Lakshampur, investigators learned that the local agent has been funneling recruits to a central agent associated with a company called SP Global. The company did not respond to AP's calls and emails. Investigators found it ceased operations in 2025.

Families of the missing individuals said they have not received any money earned by their loved ones. Miajee too said he was never paid.

"I don't want money or anything else," Akdar said. "I just want my children's father back."

Political repression in December 2025: at least 15 Russians sentenced to almost 160-year prison terms (EN/ RU)

Политические репрессии в декабре 2025 года: не менее 15 россиян приговорены к лишению свободы на общий срок более 160 лет (EN/RU)

Click on the title to read the full article/ Нажмите на заголовок, чтобы прочитать статью полностью

HRWF (07.01.2026) - On the basis of the research of the Russian association [OVD-Info](#), we have identified 15 cases of Russian citizens sentenced for political reasons to effective prison terms from 3 to 22 years (almost 160 years in total) in December 2025 and serving them in various detention centres. These statistics do not claim to be exhaustive but only reflect a part of the reality.

На основе исследований российского объединения ОВД-Инфо в декабре 2025 года нами выявлено 15 случаев политически мотивированного осуждения граждан России к реальным срокам лишения свободы на срок от 3 до 22 лет (всего более 160 лет) и отбывания ими наказания в различных учреждениях исполнения наказания. Приведенная статистика не претендует на полноту, а лишь отражает часть реальности.

25.12.2025

Sergei Udaltsov was sentenced to 6 years in prison because of statements in support of Ufa Marxists

Сергея Удальцова приговорили к 6 годам колонии из-за высказываний в поддержку уфимских марксистов

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

23.12.2025

Five defendants in the "Baymak case" were sentenced to real terms of more than 4 years in prison

Пятерых фигурантов «баймакского дела» приговорили к реальным срокам

Art. 318 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Violence dangerous to life and health against a representative of the authorities)

Art. 212 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of mass riots and involvement of other persons in the commission of such acts)

A nurse from Moscow was approved for 8 years in prison in the case of two anti-war posts

Медсестре из Москвы утвердили восемь лет колонии по делу о двух антивоенных постах

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred with the use of official position on the grounds of political, ideological hatred or enmity, or on the grounds of hatred or enmity)

19.12.2025

Bauman teacher sentenced to 3 years in prison because of Ukrainian songs on VKontakte

Преподавателя Бауманки приговорили к трем годам колонии из-за украинских песен во «VKontakte»

Art. 280 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public Calls for Extremist Activity Using the Internet)

16.12.2025

Five Ufa Marxists were sentenced to terms of 16 to 22 years in the case of terrorism

Пятерых уфимских марксистов приговорили к срокам от 16 до 22 лет по делу о терроризме

Art. 205.4 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Creation of a terrorist community and participation in a terrorist community)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

09.12.2025

The pensioner was sentenced to 5.5 years in prison because of comments in the telegram channel of the Azov fighter

Пенсионера осудили на 5,5 лет колонии из-за комментариев в телеграм-канале бойца «Азова»

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

08.12.2025

Typist Valeria Marchenko has her sentence increased to 21 years for attempting to set fire to the military registration and enlistment office

Машинистке Валерии Марченко до 21 года увеличили срок за попытку поджога военкомата

Art. 205.3 of the Criminal Code (Undergoing training for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activities)

Art. 275 of the Criminal Code (High Treason)

Art. 30 Part 1 and Art. 205 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Preparation for a terrorist act by a group of persons by prior conspiracy)

A “mythic” couple under EU sanctions since 2014 and 2022 respectively

Birds of a feather flock together

By Willy Fautré, director of Human Rights Without Frontiers

HRWF (22.12.2025) - Last year, a high-society event in Moscow went unnoticed in Western Europe: [the wedding of Konstantin Malofeev and Maria Lvova-Belova](#) in an elite venue of Deauville, near Moscow on 8 September 2024. More than a hundred people attended the event.

Both claim to embody the traditional Christian values. Konstantin Malofeev's divorce from his previous wife, a lawyer, became known in 2023. They had three children. As to Maria Lvova-Belova, she divorced from Pavel Kogelman who had become a priest in 2019. Together they had raised [10 biological and adopted children](#).

[The newlyweds are supporters of Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#) and are under sanctions of the European Union and the United States.

“Orthodox oligarch” Malofeev under EU sanctions since 2014

Since 30 July 2014, “Orthodox oligarch” Konstantin Valerevich Malofeev has been placed on the [EU sanctions](#) list under Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 as part of restrictive measures related to actions undermining *Ukraine's territorial integrity*. He was then accused of financing the self-proclaimed People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, and the media under his control became one of the main distributors of Russian propaganda. He has since then been personally subject to an asset freeze. It means that all funds and economic resources belonging to, owned, held or controlled by him have since then been frozen and EU persons and entities are prohibited from making funds available to him. Member States are primarily responsible for the implementation of EU sanctions.

He was closely linked to Ukrainian separatists in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea, providing weapons, material and financial support. He also made public statements supporting the annexation of Crimea and the Donbas. Through his actions and declarations, he is considered to have supported the destabilization of Eastern Ukraine.

In the same year, he was also put under U.S. sanctions. All of his property and assets that came within U.S. jurisdiction were **blocked**, with U.S. persons generally prohibited from dealing with him.

Malofeev's Tsargrad TV Channel under EU sanctions in 2023

On 18 December 2023, the Council of the European Union imposed restrictive measures on Tsargrad TV Channel (Царьград ТВ) belonging to and financed by Konstantin Malofeev, as part of the [12th Package of Sanctions](#) targeting an additional group of [61 individuals and 86 entities in Russia](#) responsible for actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence of Ukraine. On that occasion, the [SPAS TV Channel of the Russian Orthodox Church](#) was also put under EU sanctions.

Tsargrad TV Channel was created in 2015 by Malofeev. In 2020, Tsargrad TV was [blocked](#) on You Tube due to violation of sanctions legislation and trade rules, as reported by [Ukrainska Pravda](#). Before that ban, Tsargrad TV had 1.06 million subscribers.

Tsargrad TV is a "megaphone" of the propaganda of the Kremlin and the Russian Orthodox Church in the spheres of Russia's domestic and foreign policy, geopolitics, international relations, culture, traditions, and religion.

Tsargrad TV channel also became known for its harsh, and sometimes insulting, statements against other religions in the Russian Federation, in unison with the state policy of restricting the freedoms of non-Orthodox religions and their members.

The channel's coverage "worship[s] Putin as the second coming of Christ," according to [Irene Kenyon](#), a former senior intelligence officer at the U.S. Treasury Department.

In 2022, Washington expanded sanctions against Malofeev's "malign influence network," which included over 40 individuals and entities like the pro-Kremlin Orthodox television channel Tsargrad.

According to the OCCRP ([Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project](#)), [John Hanick](#) - a former Fox News producer who "worked in support" of Malofeev from roughly 2013 through 2017 and helped Malofeev set up Tsargrad TV - was charged with violating sanctions and faces a maximum prison sentence of 25 years.

Hanick is accused of helping Malofeev "establish and develop media outlets in Russia, Greece, Bulgaria and elsewhere" and providing "funds, goods, and services to and for the benefit" of the mogul and his companies, according to the indictment.

Malofeev faces an even steeper sentence but is unlikely to be extradited under Trump's presidency, though a U.S. judge ordered \$5.5 million of his assets seized in 2023.

Maria Lvova-Belova, the Commissioner for Children's Rights in Russia

Lvova-Belova has been in that position since 2021. Before that, she was a senator from the Penza region.

She is under sanctions of the US, the UK and the EU for transferring forcefully and illegally thousands of Ukrainian children from the occupied territories of Ukraine to Russia, and putting up a number of them publicly for adoption.

On 17 March 2023, the [International Criminal Court](#) issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights Maria Lvova-Belova for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population and unlawful transfer of population from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation, in prejudice of Ukrainian children.

[On 3 December 2025](#), the UN General Assembly adopted a nonbinding resolution demanding that Russia ensure the immediate, safe and unconditional return of all Ukrainian children it has unlawfully transferred or deported during the war, after a vote that saw 91 countries in favor, 12 against and 57 abstentions, according to [Detector Media](#)

Adopted at the Assembly's 11th emergency special session on Ukraine, the text "[demands](#) that the Russian Federation ensure the immediate, safe and unconditional return of all Ukrainian children who have been forcibly transferred or deported."

On the eve of the session of the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva in January 2024, Human Rights Without Frontiers published a report recalling that almost two years after the start of the war only a few hundred Ukrainian children had been rescued in various separate and individually designed special operations, according to [The platform "Children of War"](#) created on behalf of the Office of the President of Ukraine by various official Ukrainian institutions.

The platform has posted the pictures, names and dates of birth with the place of disappearance of about 20,000 missing children.

It is however impossible to establish the exact number of deported children given the ongoing full-scale aggression, difficult access to the temporarily occupied territories and the failure of the Russian side to provide reliable information on this matter.

On 31 July 2023, Radio Svoboda wrote "Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Russia has **"accepted"** about 4.8 million residents of Ukraine, more than 700 thousand of them children, [according](#) to the report of the Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights Maria Lvova-Belova. According to the ombudsman, most Ukrainian children came to Russia with their parents or other relatives."

In its 2023 report on the issue, the OSCE [notes](#) that the Russian authorities began working on the "transfer" of Ukrainian children for adoption or care by Russian families since 2014, after the occupation of Crimea.

According to the Russian program "[Train of Hope](#)", anyone from any part of the country could adopt Ukrainian children from Crimea, who were then granted Russian citizenship. At the end of September 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin [signed a decree](#) on the "accession" to the Russian Federation of the partially occupied regions of Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Donetsk and the occupied region of Luhansk in Ukraine. After that, children from these newly occupied regions also began to be enrolled as citizens of the Russian Federation and **forcefully adopted**.

The fate of at least 20,000 children deported from the occupied territories of Ukraine should remain high on the agenda of any ceasefire or peace negotiations.

Human Rights Without Frontiers raised this issue again at the recent conference **"Resilient Europe: Countering Russian Propaganda and Disinformation Forum"** at the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels on 17-18 December 2025.

Political repression in October – November 2025: At least 21 Russians sentenced to almost 101-year prison terms in Oct.-Nov. (EN/ RU)

Политические репрессии в октябре-ноябре 2025 года: не менее 21 россиянина приговорены к лишению свободы на общий срок более 101 года (EN/RU)

Click on the title to read the full article/ Нажмите на заголовок, чтобы прочитать статью полностью

HRWF (04.12.2025) - On the basis of the research of the Russian association [OVD-Info](#), we have identified 21 cases of Russian citizens sentenced for political reasons to effective prison terms from 2 to 9 years (almost 101 years in total) in October-November 2025 and serving them in various detention centres. These statistics do not claim to be exhaustive but only reflect a part of the reality.

На основе исследований российского объединения ОВД-Инфо в октябре-ноябре 2025 года нами выявлено 21 случаев политически мотивированного осуждения граждан России к реальным срокам лишения свободы на срок от 2 до 9 лет (всего более 101 года) и отбывания ими наказания в различных учреждениях исполнения наказания. Приведенная статистика не претендует на полноту, а лишь отражает часть реальности.

28.11.2025

[Yakut journalist sentenced to 3 years in prison in the case of justification of terrorism](#)

[Якутскую журналистку осудили на три года колонии по делу об оправдании терроризма](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

26.11.2025

[The history teacher was sentenced to 1.5 years in prison because of a 1945 poster with the flag of the Third Reich and the letter V](#)

[Учительницу истории отправили в колонию из-за плаката 1945 года с флагом Третьего рейха и буквой V](#)

Art. 284.4 of the Criminal Code (Repeated demonstration of banned symbols (Nazi, extremist organizations))

25.11.2025

[Muscovite Solim Kamin was sentenced to 8 years in prison in the case of anti-war posts](#)

[К восьми годам колонии приговорили москвича Солима Камина по делу об антивоенных постах](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred with the use of official position on the grounds of political, ideological hatred or enmity, or on the grounds of hatred or enmity)

Art. 280.4, part 2, paragraphs "c" and "e" of the Criminal Code (Public calls to carry out activities directed against the security of the state using the Internet on the grounds of political, ideological, hatred).

24.11.2025

[Former flight attendant of Ural Airlines sentenced to 7 years in prison in the case of "fakes"](#)

[Бывшую стюардессу «Уральских авиалиний» приговорили к семи годам колонии по делу о «фейках»](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred with the use of official position on the grounds of political, ideological hatred or enmity, or on the grounds of hatred or enmity)

21.11.2025

[Ex-supporter of Donbass separatists sentenced to 6 years in prison in anti-war case](#)

[Экс-сторонника донбасских сепаратистов осудили на шесть лет колонии по антивоенному делу](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

20.11.2025

[The defendant in the "Ingush case" was sentenced to 9 years in prison](#)

[Фигуранта «ингушского дела» осудили на 9 лет колонии](#)

Art. 33 Part 3 of the Criminal Code (Creation of a criminal group and its leadership)

Art. 318 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Violence dangerous to life and health against a representative of the authorities)

Art. 282.1 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Participation in the activities of an extremist community)

19.11.2025

[A resident of Yekaterinburg, who cursed a schoolboy in a hat with the letter Z, was sentenced in a new criminal case to 4.5 years in prison](#)

[Екатеринбуржца, обругавшего школьника в шапке с буквой Z, осудили по новому уголовному делу](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

[Art. 213 Part 1 paragraphs "a" and "b"](#) of the Criminal Code (Hooliganism with the use of violence committed on the grounds of political, ideological, racial, national or religious hatred or enmity)

14.11.2025

Yuri Dud was sentenced in absentia to 1 year and 10 months in prison for failure to perform the duties of a foreign agent

Юрию Дудю заочно назначили реальный срок по «иноагентской» статье

Art. 330.1 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Violation of the Procedure for the Activities of a Foreign Agent Committed by a Person Previously Subjected to Administrative Punishment)

13.11.2025

A resident of the Sverdlovsk region was sentenced to 6 years because of the comment "well done guy"

Жителя Свердловской области приговорили к шести годам из-за комментария «молодец пацан»

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

11.11.2025

A bookseller from the Kostroma region was sentenced to 5 years in prison in the case of military "fakes"

Условный срок на реальный заменили книготорговцу из Костромской области по делу о военных «фейках»

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred with the use of official position on the grounds of political, ideological hatred or enmity, or on the grounds of hatred or enmity)

10.11.2025

55-year-old Vladimir Osipov was sentenced to 6.5 years in prison in the case of military "fakes"

55-летнего Владимира Осипова приговорили к 6,5 годам колонии по делу о военных «фейках»

06.11.2025

The punishment of an Orthodox blogger from Buryatia was toughened - 3,5 years in prison

Православному блогеру из Бурятии ужесточили наказание

Art. 280 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public Calls for Extremist Activity Using the Internet)
Art. 282.2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of an extremist organization)

Irkutsk blogger sentenced to 2 years and 7 months in prison due to a conflict with a police officer

Иркутскую блогерку приговорили к колонии-поселению из-за конфликта с полицейским

Art. 318 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Violence dangerous to life and health against a representative of the authorities)

Art. 319 of the Criminal Code (Public insult of a representative of the authorities in the performance of his official duties)

31.10.2025

A St. Petersburg resident received 5.5 years in prison because of messages in support of the Russian Volunteer Corps

[Петербуржец получил пять с половиной лет колонии из-за сообщений в поддержку РДК](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

27.10.2025

[A St. Petersburg woman received 2 years in prison because of the video of the burning of her passport](#)

[Петербурженка получила два года колонии-поселения из-за видео сожжения паспорта](#)
Art. 213 Part 1 paragraph "b" of the Criminal Code (Hooliganism committed on the grounds of political, ideological, racial, national or religious hatred or enmity)

Art. 329 of the Criminal Code (Desecration of the state emblem or flag of the Russian Federation)

22.10.2025

[Convicted anarchist sentenced in second criminal case to 5 years in prison](#)

[Осужденного анархиста приговорили по второму уголовному делу из-за чтения материалов первого](#)

Art. 280 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public Calls for Extremist Activity Using the Internet)
Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

Art. 214 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Vandalism committed by a group of persons by prior conspiracy or on the grounds of political, ideological, racial, national or religious hatred or enmity)

21.10.2025

[Defendant in the case of throwing a snowball at a rally in Baymak sentenced to 3 years and 7 months in prison](#)

[Фигуранта дела о брошенном снежке на митинге в Баймаке приговорили к 3 годам и 7 месяцам колонии](#)

Art. 318 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Violence dangerous to life and health against a representative of the authorities)

Art. 212 of the Criminal Code (Organization of mass riots and involvement of other persons in the commission of such acts)

20.10.2025

[The head of the Uzbek community, convicted because of a meme with roosters, received almost 2 more years in prison](#)

[Глава узбекского землячества, осужденный из-за мема с петухами, получил еще почти два года колонии](#)

Art. 321 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Disruption of the activities of correctional institutions in relation to an employee of a place of deprivation of liberty or a place of detention)

17.10.2025

[Seriously ill Jehovah's Witness sentenced to 7 years in prison](#)

[Тяжелобольного Свидетеля Иеговы приговорили к 7 годам лишения свободы](#)

Art. 282.2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of an extremist organization)

[A loader from St. Petersburg was sentenced to 8 years because of posts on a blocked page](#)

[Грузчика из Петербурга осудили на восемь лет из-за постов на заблокированной странице](#)

Art. 280 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public Calls for Extremist Activity Using the Internet)
Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred with the use of official position on the grounds of political, ideological hatred or enmity, or on the grounds of hatred or enmity)

Art. 282.2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of an extremist organization using the Internet)

[Beekeeper from Bashkortostan sentenced to 4.5 years in the "Baymak case"](#)

[Пчеловода из Башкортостана осудили на 4,5 года по «баймакскому делу»](#)

Art. 318 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Violence dangerous to life and health against a representative of the authorities)

Art. 212 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of mass riots and involvement of other persons in the commission of such acts)

Political repression in September 2025: At least 33 Russians sentenced to almost 180-year prison terms (EN/ RU)

Политические репрессии в сентябре 2025 года: не менее 33 россиян приговорены к лишению свободы на общий срок более 180 лет (EN/RU)

Click on the title to read the full article/ Нажмите на заголовок, чтобы прочитать статью полностью

HRWF (08.10.2025) - On the basis of the research of the Russian association [OVD-Info](#), we have identified 33 cases of Russian citizens sentenced for political reasons to effective prison terms from 8 months to 15 years (almost 180 years in total) in September 2025 and serving them in various detention centres. These statistics do not claim to be exhaustive but only reflect a part of the reality.

На основе исследований российского объединения ОВД-Инфо в сентябре 2025 года нами выявлено 33 случая политически мотивированного осуждения граждан России к реальным срокам лишения свободы на срок от 8 месяцев до 15 лет (всего более 180 лет) и отбывания ими наказания в различных учреждениях исполнения наказания. Приведенная статистика не претендует на полноту, а лишь отражает часть реальности.

26.09.2025

[Voronezh security guard sentenced to 2 years in prison because of call for "elimination" of the leadership of the Russian Federation](#)

[Воронежского охранника приговорили к двум годам колонии из-за призыва к «устранению» руководства РФ](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

[A St. Petersburg resident was sentenced to 5 years in prison because of comments about the shelling of Ukraine](#)

[Петербуржца приговорили к колонии из-за комментариев об обстрелах Украины и «прижопинских троллях»](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

Art. 282.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Financing of extremist activities)

25.09.2025

[Moscow activist Konstantin Kotov was sentenced in absentia to 5 years in prison because of donations from the Anti-Corruption Foundation](#)

[Московского активиста Константина Котова заочно приговорили к пяти годам колонии из-за донатов ФБК](#)

Art. 282.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Financing of extremist activities)

[The head of the Narva Museum was sentenced in absentia to 10 years in prison because of the banner "Putin is a war criminal"](#)

[Главу Нарвского музея заочно осудили на 10 лет колонии из-за баннера «Путин — военный преступник»](#)

Art. 354.1, Part 4 of the Criminal Code (Rehabilitation of Nazism in the form of desecration of the symbols of the military glory of Russia and in memory of the defenders of the Fatherland)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "b", "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred with the use of official position)

24.09.2025

[A resident of Novorossiysk was sentenced to 9 years in prison because of his posts and an attempt to join the Freedom of Russia Legion](#)

[Жителя Новороссийска приговорили к 9 годам из-за постов и попытки вступить в легион «Свобода России»](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

Art. 205.5 part 2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of a terrorist organization and participation in its activities) with the use of Art. 30 part 1 of the Criminal Code (Preparation for the commission of a crime)

Art. 280.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Public actions aimed at discrediting the armed forces of the Russian Federation)

23.09.2025

[A resident of Kerch was sentenced in absentia to 5.5 years in prison because of a post about a strike on a railway station in Kramatorsk](#)

[Жительницу Керчи заочно осудили на 5,5 лет колонии из-за поста об ударе по вокзалу в Краматорске](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred)

Art. 282 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Incitement to hatred or enmity)

[A Crimean was sentenced to 1 year in prison for spitting into a box for collecting aid to the military](#)

[Крымчанина приговорили к году колонии-поселения из-за плевок в коробку для сбора помощи военным](#)

Art. 354.1, Part 3 of the Criminal Code (Rehabilitation of Nazism in the form of desecration of the symbols of the military glory of Russia and in memory of the defenders of the Fatherland)

Art. 329 of the Criminal Code (Desecration of the state emblem or flag of the Russian Federation)

22.09.2025

[Two Jehovah's Witnesses Sentenced to 6.5 and 7 Years in Prison in Saransk](#)

[В Саранске двоих Свидетелей Иеговы приговорили к 6 с половиной и 7 годам колонии](#)

Art. 282.2, Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of an extremist organization)

[A supporter of the Wagner PMC was sentenced to 3 years because of a comment about "shell hunger"](#)

[Сторонника ЧВК «Вагнер» осудили на 3 года из-за комментария про «снарядный голод»](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

19.09.2025

[Five defendants in the "Baymak case" were sentenced to terms of up to 5.5 years in prison](#)

[Пятерых фигурантов «баймакского дела» приговорили к срокам до 5,5 лет колонии](#)

Art. 318 Part 1, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Violence dangerous to life and health against a representative of the authorities)

Art. 212 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of mass riots and involvement of other persons in the commission of such acts)

[A resident of Obninsk was sentenced to 4 years in prison in the case of supporting the Anti-Corruption Foundation and Viasna](#)

[Жительнице Обнинска вынесли приговор по делу о поддержке ФБК и «Весны»](#)

Art. 280.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Public actions aimed at discrediting the armed forces of the Russian Federation)

Art. 282.2, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Recruitment and involvement in the activities of an extremist organization)

18.09.2025

[Folklorist from Khanty-Mansiysk sentenced to 3 years in prison in the case of donations by the Anti-Corruption Foundation](#)

[Фольклористу из Ханты-Мансийска заменили штраф на реальный срок по делу о донатах ФБК](#)

Art. 282.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Financing of extremist activities)

[A dog handler, persecuted because of a post about a strike on Kramatorsk, was sentenced to 5 years in prison](#)

[Кинологиню, преследуемую из-за поста об ударе по Краматорску, снова приговорили к пяти годам колонии](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred)

[A school guard from St. Petersburg was sentenced to 5 years in prison because of a post about Bucha](#)

[Школьного охранника из Петербурга приговорили к пяти годам колонии из-за поста о Буче](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred)

09.09.2025

[**Jehovah's Witness from Occupied Crimea Sentenced to 6 Years in Prison**](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из оккупированного Крыма приговорили к шести годам колонии](#)

Art. 282.2, Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of an extremist organization)

[**The founder of the project "Go through the woods" was sentenced in absentia to 6 years in the case of "military fakes"**](#)

[Основателя проекта «Идите лесом» заочно приговорили к шести годам по делу о «военных фейках»](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred)

08.09.2025

[**Khabarovsk resident sentenced to 15 years in prison because of leaflets on the graves of war veterans**](#)

[Хабаровчанина приговорили к 15 годам заключения из-за листовок на могилах участников войны](#)

Article 205.5 part 2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of a terrorist organization and participation in its activities)

Art. 205.2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

Art. 244 part 2, paragraphs "b" of the Criminal Code (Desecration of burial sites motivated by political hatred)

Art. 275.1 of the Criminal Code (Cooperation on a confidential basis with a foreign state, international or foreign organization directed against the security of the Russian Federation)

07.09.2025

[**A resident of Kaluga was sentenced to 3 years in prison because of a comment about a drone attack**](#)

[Жителя Калуги приговорили к трем годам колонии из-за комментария об атаке беспилотников](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

06.09.2025

[**A resident of Angarsk was sentenced to 5 years in prison in the case of calls for violence against a Russian statesman**](#)

[Жителю Ангарска назначили реальный срок по делу о призывах к насилию над российским госдеятелем](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

05.09.2025

[A former associate professor from Kursk was sentenced to 3 years in prison because of a comment on Telegram](#)

[Бывшего доцента из Курска приговорили к трем годам колонии из-за комментария в телеграме](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

[A resident of Yamal was sentenced to 12 years in prison because of a video about the war in Ukraine](#)

[Жителя Ямала приговорили к 12 годам заключения из-за видео о войне в Украине](#)

Art. 280.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Public actions aimed at discrediting the armed forces of the Russian Federation)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred)

Art. 280.4 part 2 paragraphs "c" of the Criminal Code (Public calls to carry out activities directed against the security of the state using the media or the Internet)

[A volunteer who helped Ukrainian refugees in the Kursk region was sentenced to 5 years in prison](#)

[Волонтерку, помогавшую украинским беженцам в Курской области, осудили на пять лет колонии](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

Art. 280.4 part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls to carry out activities directed against the security of the state)

[The leader of the movement for the independence of Chuvashia was sentenced in absentia to 7.5 years "for threatening the head of the center "E""](#)

[Лидера движения за независимость Чувашии заочно приговорили к 7,5 годам «за угрозы главе центра „Э“»](#)

Art. 280.4 part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls to carry out activities directed against the security of the state)

Art. 282 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Incitement to hatred or enmity in the presence of aggravating circumstances)

04.09.2025

[The court sentenced journalist Karen Shainyan in absentia to 5 years in prison because of two donations from the Anti-Corruption Foundation](#)

[Суд заочно приговорил журналиста Карена Шаиняна к пяти годам колонии из-за двух донатов ФБК](#)

Art. 282.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Financing of extremist activities)

[Muscovite sentenced to 3.5 years in prison in the case of financing the Anti-Corruption Foundation](#)

[Москвича приговорили к трем с половиной годам колонии по делу о финансировании ФБК](#)

Art. 282.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Financing of extremist activities)

03.09.2025

[A resident of the Bryansk region was sentenced to 8 months in a penal colony because of a comment in a messenger](#)

[Жителя Брянской области приговорили к 8 месяцам колонии-поселения из-за комментария в мессенджере](#)

Art. 354.1, Part 4 of the Criminal Code (Rehabilitation of Nazism in the form of desecration of the symbols of the military glory of Russia and in memory of the defenders of the Fatherland)

Pastor sentenced to 4 years in prison for pacifist preaching in the first days of mobilization

[Пастора приговорили к четырем годам колонии из-за пацифистской проповеди в первые дни мобилизации](#)

Art. 280.4 part 2 paragraphs "b", "c" of the Criminal Code (Public calls to carry out activities directed against the security of the state using the media or the Internet with the use of official position)

01.09.2025

Defendant in Artpodgotovka case sentenced to 10 years in prison

[Фигуранта дела «Артподготовки» приговорили к 10 годам лишения свободы](#)

Art. 205.1 part 1 (Inducement, recruitment or involvement of persons in terrorist activities)
Art. 282.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Financing of extremist activities)

Political repression in August 2025: at least 21 Russians sentenced to almost 150-year prison terms (EN/ RU)

Политические репрессии в августе 2025 года: не менее 21 россиян приговорены к лишению свободы на общий срок более 150 лет (EN/RU)

Click on the title to read the full article/ Нажмите на заголовок, чтобы прочитать статью полностью

HRWF (03.09.2025) - On the basis of the research of the Russian association [OVD-Info](#), we have identified 21 cases of Russian citizens sentenced for political reasons to effective prison terms from 1 to 18 years (almost 150 years in total) in August 2025 and serving them in various detention centers. These statistics do not claim to be exhaustive but only reflect a part of the reality.

На основе исследований российского объединения ОВД-Инфо в августе 2025 года нами выявлено 21 случаев политически мотивированного осуждения граждан России к реальным срокам лишения свободы на срок от 1 до 18 лет (всего более 150 лет) и отбывания ими наказания в различных учреждениях исполнения наказания. Приведенная статистика не претендует на полноту, а лишь отражает часть реальности.

29.08.2025

A native of Ukraine was sentenced to 3 years in prison because of calls to execute Russian officials

[Уроженца Украины приговорили к трем годам колонии из-за призывов казнить российских чиновников](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

[A resident of Balakhna was sentenced to 18 years in prison in the case of anti-war posts and participation in the Freedom of Russia legion](#)

[Жителя Балахны осудили на 18 лет по делу об антивоенных постах и участии в легионе «Свобода России»](#)

Art. 207.3, part 1 of the Criminal Code (Public dissemination of knowingly false information about the use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation),

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Article 205.5 part 2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of a terrorist organization and participation in its activities)

28.08.2025

[A St. Petersburg resident with a disability was sentenced to 3 years in prison because of a comment in Telegram](#)

[Петербуржца с инвалидностью приговорили к трем годам колонии из-за комментария в Телеграме](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

[A resident of Novokuznetsk was sentenced to 5 years in prison in the case of military "fakes"](#)

[Жительницу Новокузнецка приговорили к пяти годам лишения свободы по делу о военных «фейках»](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2 of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about a Russian army group of persons by prior conspiracy motivated by political and national hatred)

27.07.2025

[A resident of the Kherson region was sentenced to 7 years in prison in the case of "fakes"](#)

[Жителя Херсонской области приговорили к семи годам колонии по делу о «фейках»](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2 of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about a Russian army group of persons by prior conspiracy motivated by political and national hatred)

26.07.2025

[19-year-old St. Petersburg resident Daria Kozyreva was sentenced to 2 years and 8 months in prison in the case of a quote from Shevchenko and an interview](#)

[19-летней петербурженке Дарье Козыревой утвердили приговор по делу о цитате Шевченко и интервью](#)

Art. 280.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Public actions aimed at discrediting the armed forces of the Russian Federation)

22.08.2025

[A resident of Rubtsovsk was sentenced to 18 years in prison in the case of arson of the military registration and enlistment office](#)

[Жителя Рубцовска приговорили к 18 годам лишения свободы по делу о поджоге военкомата](#)

Art. 205 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Terrorist act),
Art. 205.1 part 1 (Inducement, recruitment or involvement of persons in terrorist activities),
Art. 205.3 of the Criminal Code (Undergoing training for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activities),
Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

21.08.2025

[A nurse from Chita was sentenced to 5 years in prison because of anti-war comments](#)

[Сиделку из Читы приговорили к пяти годам колонии из-за антивоенных комментариев](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

[A resident of Barnaul was sentenced to 9.5 years in prison in the second criminal case because of posts and comments](#)

[Жителя Барнаула осудили по уже второму уголовному делу из-за постов и комментариев](#)

Art. 282 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Incitement to hatred or enmity)
Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

19.08.2025

[Human rights activist Sergei Davidis sentenced in absentia to 6 years in prison](#)

[Правозащитника Сергея Давидиса заочно приговорили к шести годам колонии](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

18.08.2025

[A postwoman from the Kaliningrad region was sentenced to 3 years and 2 months in prison because of the comment "Blow up the factories to hell"](#)

[Почтальонку из Калининградской области осудили из-за комментария «Взорвать заводы нахрен»](#)

Art. 280.4 part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls to carry out activities directed against the security of the state)

15.08.2025

Activist from Crimea sentenced to 15 years in prison on charges of treason and preparation of a terrorist attack

Активистку из Крыма приговорили к 15 годам колонии по обвинению в госизмене и подготовке теракта

Art. 275 of the Criminal Code (High treason),
Art. 205.3 of the Criminal Code (Undergoing training for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activities),
Art. 205 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Terrorist act) with the application of Part 1 of Article 30 of the Criminal Code (Purchase for Execution)

14.08.2025

A resident of the Oryol region was sentenced to 8 years in prison because of posts against the war and the authorities

Жителя Орловской области приговорили к 8 годам колонии из-за постов против войны и власти

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred),
Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

Blogger Ilya Varlamov was sentenced to 8 years in prison in absentia

Блогера Илью Варламова приговорили к восьми годам лишения свободы заочно

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred),
Art. 330.1, part 2 of the Criminal Code (Evasion of the duties of a "foreign agent")

12.08.2025

A teacher of a business school was sentenced to 16 years in prison in the case of drone strikes on Kursk

Преподавателя бизнес-школы приговорили к 16 годам колонии по делу об ударах беспилотников по Курску

Art. 205 Part 2 paragraphs "a", "c" of the Criminal Code (Terrorist act committed by a group of persons and causing significant damage).

Handyman from Chelyabinsk sentenced to 6 years in prison because of two comments in Telegram

Разнорабочего из Челябинска приговорили к шести годам колонии из-за двух комментариев в Телеграме

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

07.08.2025

Nizhny Novgorod resident sentenced to 4 years in prison in the case of "Artpodgotovka" and comments in Telegram

Нижегородца осудили на четыре года колонии по делу об «Артподготовке» и комментариях в Телеграме

Art. 282 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Incitement to hatred or enmity in the presence of aggravating circumstances),
Art. 205.2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

06.08.2025

[Zarema Musayeva was sentenced to another 3 years and 11 months in prison](#)

[Зарему Мусаеву приговорили еще к 3 годам и 11 месяцам колонии-поселения](#)

Art. 321 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Disorganization of the work of the colony)

05.08.2025

[A citizen of Azerbaijan was sentenced to 1 year in prison in the case of desecration of the Eternal Flame](#)

[Гражданина Азербайджана приговорили к году в колонии-поселении по делу об осквернении Вечного огня](#)

Art. 354.1, Part 3 of the Criminal Code (Rehabilitation of Nazism in the form of desecration of the symbols of the military glory of Russia and in memory of the defenders of the Fatherland)

03.08.2025

[A Ukrainian from the "Sentsov List", sentenced to 8 years, was sentenced to an additional 2 years in prison](#)

[Украинцу из «Списка Сенцова», осужденному на восемь лет колонии, назначили новый срок](#)

Art. 280 part 2 (Public calls for extremist activity)

01.08.2025

[A resident of Irkutsk was sentenced to 5.5 years in prison because of anti-war comments](#)

[Жительницу Иркутска приговорили к 5,5 годам колонии из-за антивоенных комментариев](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism).

**Political repression in July 2025: at least 37
Russians sentenced to almost 244-year prison terms
(EN/ RU)**

**Политические репрессии в июне 2025 года: не менее 37
россиян приговорены к лишению свободы на общий срок более 244 лет
(EN/RU)**

***Click on the title to read the full article/ Нажмите на заголовок,
чтобы прочитать статью полностью***

HRWF (04.08.2025) - On the basis of the research of the Russian association [OVD-Info](#), we have identified 37 cases of Russian citizens sentenced for political reasons to effective prison terms from 1,5 to 19 years (almost 244 years in total) in July 2025 and serving them in various detention centers. These statistics do not claim to be exhaustive but only reflect a part of the reality.

На основе исследований российского объединения ОВД-Инфо в июле 2025 года нами выявлено 37 случаев политически мотивированного осуждения граждан России к реальным срокам лишения свободы на срок от 1,5 до 19 лет (всего более 244 лет) и отбывания ими наказания в различных учреждениях исполнения наказания. Приведенная статистика не претендует на полноту, а лишь отражает часть реальности.

30.07.2025

[Kazan resident who spoke out against the war was sentenced to 15 years in prison in the case of arson and comments](#)
[Выступавшего против войны казанца приговорили к 15 годам колонии по делу о поджоге и комментариях](#)

Art. 280 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls for extremist activities using the Internet),
Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),
Art. 205 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Terrorist act).

29.07.2025

[Tajik opposition activist sentenced to 8.5 years in prison because of YouTube video](#)
[Оппозиционера из Таджикистана приговорили к 8,5 годам колонии из-за ролика на YouTube](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "b", "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about a Russian army group of persons by prior conspiracy motivated by political and national hatred)

[Five residents of Moscow and the Moscow region were sentenced to terms from 4 to 16 years in prison in a terrorist case after the introduction of an FSB agent](#)
[Пятерых жителей Москвы и Подмосковья осудили по террористическому делу после внедрения агента ФСБ](#)

Art. 205.4 Part 1, 2 of the Criminal Code (Creation of a terrorist community and participation in it)
Art. 150 Part 4 of the Criminal Code (involvement of a minor in a criminal group)
Art. 205.3 of the Criminal Code (Undergoing training for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activities)

[Journalist Olga Komleva was sentenced to 12 years in prison in the case of military "fakes" and cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Foundation](#)
[Журналистку Ольгу Комлеву приговорили к 12 годам по делу о военных «фейках» и сотрудничестве с ФБК](#)

Art. 282.1 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Inducement, recruitment or other involvement in the activities of an extremist community)
Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred)

28.07.2025

[A resident of Chita was sentenced to 14 years in prison in a case of participation in "Artpodgrovka"](#)

[Читинца приговорили к 14 годам колонии по делу об участии в «Артподготовке»](#)

Article 205.5 part 2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of a terrorist organization and participation in its activities)

[The author of the YouTube channel "Trade Union of Buryatia" was sentenced in absentia to 6 years because of the video](#)

[Автора ютуб-канала «Профсоюз Бурятии» заочно приговорили к шести годам из-за ролика](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

25.07.2025

[A resident of the Moscow region was sentenced to 1,5 years in prison in the case of discrediting the army](#)

[Жительницу Подмосковья приговорили к полутора годам колонии-поселения по делу о дискредитации армии](#)

Art. 280.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Public actions aimed at discrediting the armed forces of the Russian Federation)

24.07.2025

[A citizen of Russia, the United States and Ukraine was sentenced to 6 years in prison in the case of comments in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine](#)

[Гражданина России, США и Украины осудили на шесть лет колонии по делу о комментариях в поддержку ВСУ](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Art. 280 part 2 (Public calls for extremist activity).

23.07.2025

[In Moscow, a follower of the Chinese teaching "Falun Gong" was sentenced to 4 years in prison](#)

[В Москве последовательницу китайского учения «Фалуньгун» приговорили к 4 годам колонии](#)

Art. 284.1 Part 3 of the Criminal Code (Carrying out the activities of a foreign or international organization recognized as undesirable in the territory of the Russian Federation)

[KudaGo employee sentenced to 3.5 years in prison in the case of comments about RDK](#)

[Сотрудника KudaGo приговорили к трем годам и шести месяцам колонии по делу о комментарии про РДК](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

21.07.2025

[Nine defendants in the case of "citizens of the USSR" from Karachay-Cherkessia were sentenced to 5 to 8 years in prison](#)

[Девяти фигурантам дела «граждан СССР» из Карачаево-Черкесии вынесли приговор](#)

Art. 282.1 Part 1,2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of an extremist community; Inducement, recruitment or other involvement in the activities of an extremist community),
Art. 222.1 Part 1,3 of the Criminal Code (Illegal acquisition, transfer, storage of explosives)

18.07.2024

[Journalist Farida Kurbangaleeva sentenced in absentia to 8 years in prison](#)

[Журналистку Фариду Курбангалееву заочно приговорили к 8 годам колонии](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about a Russian army motivated by political and national hatred)

17.07.2025

[A resident of the Voronezh region was sentenced to 8 years in prison because of comments about the authorities](#)

[Жителя Воронежской области осудили на восемь лет колонии из-за комментариев о властях](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Art. 280 part 2 (Public calls for extremist activity).

[A resident of Bratsk was sentenced to 12.5 years in the case of "extremist" comments and the sale of cannabis](#)

[Жителя Братска приговорили к 12,5 годам по делу об «экстремистских» комментариях и сбыте конопли](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Art. 280 part 2 (Public calls for extremist activity),

Art. 228.1 Part 1, 4 of the Criminal Code (Illegal production and sale of narcotic substances)

[Togliatti resident sentenced to 6 years in prison because of conversations with cellmates about war](#)

[Тольяттинца приговорили к шести годам колонии из-за разговоров с сокамерниками о войне](#)

Art. 321 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Disorganization of the work of the colony).

[Journalist and author of the Newsader YouTube channel sentenced to 8 years and 1 month in prison in absentia](#)

[Журналиста и автора ютуб-канала Newsader приговорили к 8 годам колонии заочно](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred),
Art. 330.1, part 2 of the Criminal Code (Evasion of the duties of a "foreign agent")

[Buryat journalist sentenced in absentia to 7 years in prison in the case of "fakes" and failure to perform the duties of a "foreign agent"](#)

[Бурятскую журналистку заочно осудили по делу о «фейках» и неисполнении обязанностей «иноагента»](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred),
Art. 330.1, part 2 of the Criminal Code (Evasion of the duties of a "foreign agent")

15.07.2025

[Four men who warmed their feet at the Eternal Flame in Nevinnomyssk were sentenced to imprisonment of up to 2.5 years](#)

[Четырех мужчин, гревших ноги у Вечного огня в Невинномысске, приговорили к реальным срокам](#)

Art. 354.1, Part 4 of the Criminal Code (Rehabilitation of Nazism in the form of desecration of the symbols of the military glory of Russia, committed by a group of persons),

[Ukrainian woman sentenced to 3 years in prison for donating to FBK](#)
[Украинку приговорили к трем годам колонии за донат ФБК](#)

Art. 282.3 Part 1 (Financing of Extremist Activity)

[Father of five children from Moscow sentenced to 3 years in prison because of FBK donations](#)

[Отца пяти детей из Москвы приговорили к трем годам колонии из-за донатов ФБК на сумму 1500 рублей](#)

Art. 282.3 Part 1 (Financing of Extremist Activity)

[Writer Boris Akunin was sentenced in absentia to 14 years in prison](#)
[Писателя Бориса Акунина заочно приговорили к 14 годам колонии](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Art. 205.1 part 1 (Inducement, recruitment or involvement of persons in terrorist activities),

Art. 330.1, part 2 of the Criminal Code (Evasion of the duties of a "foreign agent")

08.07.2025

[Sochinets sentenced to 5 years in prison in the case of conscription to help the Armed Forces of Ukraine and posts about the war](#)

[Сочинца приговорили к пяти годам колонии по делу о призыве помочь ВСУ и постах про войну](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Art. 280.4 part 2 (Public calls to carry out activities directed against the security of the state),
Art. 228 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Illegal acquisition, storage, transportation of narcotic drugs)

03.07.2025

[Ex-adviser to the head of Bashkortostan sentenced in absentia to 8 years in the case of "fakes"](#)

[Экс-советника главы Башкортостана заочно приговорили к 8 годам по делу о «фейках»](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred),
Art. 330.1, part 2 of the Criminal Code (Evasion of the duties of a "foreign agent")

02.07.2025

[A resident of Kirov was sentenced to 4 years in prison in the case of justifying the explosion in Crimea](#)

[Жителя Кирова приговорили к четырем годам колонии по делу об оправдании взрыва в Крыму](#)

Art. 205.2 part 1 (Public calls for terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism)

01.07.2025

[A native of Chechnya was sentenced to 3 years in a colony for shahad on a car glass](#)

[Уроженца Чечни приговорили к трем годам колонии из-за шахады на стекле автомобиля](#)

Art. 205.2 part 1 (Public calls for terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism)

Political repression in June 2025: at least 30 Russians sentenced to almost 270-year prison terms (EN/ RU)

Политические репрессии в июне 2025 года: не менее 30 россиян приговорены к лишению свободы на общий срок более 270 лет (EN/RU)

Click on the title to read the full article/ Нажмите на заголовок, чтобы прочитать статью полностью

HRWF (04.07.2025) - On the basis of the research of the Russian association [OVD-Info](#), we have identified 30 cases of Russian citizens sentenced for political reasons to effective prison terms from 1 to 22 years (almost 270 years in total) in June 2025 and serving them in various detention centers. These statistics do not claim to be exhaustive but only reflect a part of the reality.

На основе исследований российского объединения ОВД-Инфо в июня 2025 года нами выявлено 30 случаев политически мотивированного осуждения граждан России к реальным срокам лишения свободы на срок от 1 до 22 лет (всего более 272 лет) и отбывания ими наказания в различных учреждениях исполнения наказания. Приведенная статистика не претендует на полноту, а лишь отражает часть реальности.

30.06.2025

[In the Stavropol Territory, two men were sentenced to 2,5 years in prison for warming their feet at the Eternal Flame](#)

[В Ставропольском крае к реальным срокам приговорили двух мужчин, гревших ноги у Вечного огня](#)

Art. 354.1, Part 4 of the Criminal Code (Rehabilitation of Nazism in the form of desecration of the symbols of the military glory of Russia, committed by a group of persons)

[A teacher from the Moscow region was sentenced in absentia to 7 years in prison because of a conversation with schoolchildren about the war](#)

[Подмосковную учительницу заочно приговорили к 7 годам колонии из-за разговора со школьниками о войне](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "a", "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army using official position and motivated by political and national hatred)

[18-year-old Arkhangelsk resident sentenced to 5 years in prison in the case of calls for terrorism](#)

[18-летнюю архангелогородку приговорили к 5 годам колонии по делу о призывах к терроризму](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Art. 280 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls for extremist activities using the Internet),
Art. 280.4 part 2 paragraphs "c", "e" (Public calls to carry out activities directed against the security of the state using the Internet on the grounds of political, national and social hatred)

28.06.2025

[A military pensioner from the Nizhny Novgorod region was sentenced to 18 years in prison for anti-war leaflets](#)

[Военного пенсионера из Нижегородской области приговорили к 18 годам колонии за антивоенные листовки](#)

Art. 275 of the Criminal Code (High treason),

Art. 205.2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity, public justification or propaganda of terrorism),

Art. 222.1 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Illegal possession of explosives).

27.05.2025

[Tomsk Resident Sentenced to 3 Years in the Case of Involvement in the Falun Gong Movement](#)

[Жителя Томска осудили на три года по делу о причастности к движению Фалуньгун](#)

Art. 284.1 Part 3 of the Criminal Code (Carrying out the activities of a foreign or international organization recognized as undesirable in the territory of the Russian Federation)

26.05.2025

[**Perm photographer sentenced to 16 years in prison for treason because of a publicly available book**](#)

[Пермского фотографа приговорили к 16 годам по делу о госизмене из-за общедоступной книги](#)

Art. 275 of the Criminal Code (High treason)

25.05.2025

[**In Yekaterinburg, an officer who opposed the war in Ukraine was sentenced to 18 years in prison in a treason case**](#)

[В Екатеринбурге офицера, выступавшего против войны в Украине, осудили на 18 лет по делу о госизмене](#)

Art. 275 of the Criminal Code (High treason),

Art. 283.1 part 2 paragraph "f" of the Criminal Code (Illegal receipt of information constituting a state secret)

[**St. Petersburg local historian sentenced to 1 year in prison because of a comment about a Finnish sniper**](#)

[Петербургского краеведа приговорили к году в колонии-поселении из-за комментария о финском снайпере](#)

Art. 354.1, Part 2 paragraph "c" of the Criminal Code (Rehabilitation of Nazism using the Internet)

[**Jehovah's Witness from Karachay-Cherkessia with disability sentenced to 4.5 years in prison**](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из Карачаево-Черкесии с инвалидностью приговорили к 4,5 годам колонии](#)

Art. 282.2 Part 1.1 and Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of an extremist organization and the involvement of other persons in it)

[**Andrei Zayakin, co-founder of Dissernet, was sentenced in absentia to 5 years in prison in the case of a donation to the Anti-Corruption Foundation**](#)

[Сооснователя «Диссернета» Андрея Заякина заочно приговорили к 5 годам колонии по делу о донате ФБК](#)

Art. 282.3 Part 1 (Financing of Extremist Activity)

[**The rector of the Moscow Zen center was sentenced to 8 years in prison in the case of military "fakes"**](#)

[Настоятеля московского центра Дзэн приговорили к восьми годам колонии по делу о военных «фейках»](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian army motivated by political and national hatred)

24.06.2025

[An engineer from Tatarstan increased his sentence by + 1 year in the case of extremism](#)

[Инженеру из Татарстана увеличили на год срок по делу об экстремизме](#)

Art. 282.2 Part 2 (Participation in the activities of an extremist organization)

[A resident of the Irkutsk region was sentenced to 6 years in prison because of comments about the security forces](#)

[Жителя Иркутской области приговорили к шести годам колонии из-за комментариев про силовиков](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Art. 280 part 2 (Public calls for extremist activity).

23.06.2025

[A student from Chuvashia was sentenced to 1.5 years in prison because of anti-war graffiti. A third criminal case was opened against him](#)

[Студента из Чувашии осудили из-за антивоенного граффити. На него завели третье уголовное дело](#)

Art. 214 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Vandalism motivated by political hatred)

20.06.2024

[A volunteer of the "Army of Beauties" who helped Ukrainian refugees was sentenced to 22 years in prison](#)

[Волонтерку «Армии красоток», помогавшую украинским беженцам, приговорили к 22 годам колонии](#)

Art. 275 of the Criminal Code (High treason),

Art. 280.4 part 2 (Public calls to carry out activities directed against the security of the state),

Art. 205.1 part 4 (Assistance to terrorist activities and organization of crimes)

19.06.2025

[Georgian oppositionist sentenced to 2 years in prison because of posts about Georgians fighting in the Armed Forces of Ukraine](#)

[Грузинского оппозиционера приговорили к двум годам колонии из-за постов про грузин, воюющих в ВСУ](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism)

18.06.2025

[Muscovite was fined 3.5 years in prison in the case of seven donations of the Anti-Corruption Foundation](#)

[Москвичу заменили штраф на реальный срок по делу о семи донатах ФБК](#)

Art. 282.3 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Financing of Extremist Activity)

17.06.2025

[A resident of the Trans-Baikal Territory was sentenced to 11 years in the case of "Artillery preparation"](#)

[Жителя Забайкальского края осудили на 11 лет по делу «Артподготовки»](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Article 205.5 part 2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of a terrorist organization and participation in its activities)

16.06.2025

[Three defendants in the "Baymak case" were sentenced to terms of up to 4.5 years in prison](#)

[Трех фигурантов «баймакского дела» приговорили к срокам до четырех с половиной лет колонии](#)

Art. 212 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Involvement of other persons in participation in mass riots),

Art. 318 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (On the use of violence against representatives of the authorities)

15.06.2025

[A businessman from Chelyabinsk was sentenced to 5.5 years in prison in a criminal case of commenting about the war](#)

[Бизнесмену из Челябинска утвердили срок по уголовному делу о комментарии про войну](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

14.06.2025

[A resident of Mariupol was sentenced to 6 years in prison because of the posts](#)

[Жительницу Мариуполя приговорили к шести годам колонии из-за постов](#)

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Art. 280.4 part 2 (Public calls to carry out activities directed against the security of the state)

11.06.2025

[Politician Leonid Volkov sentenced in absentia to 18 years in prison](#)

[Политика Леонида Волкова заочно приговорили к 18 годам лишения свободы](#)

Art. 159 Part 4 of the Criminal Code (Fraud committed by a group of persons or on an especially large scale),

Art. 214 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Vandalism motivated by political hatred),

Art. 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public incitement to terrorist activity and justification of terrorism),

Art. 207.3, part 2, paragraphs "a", "e" of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about a Russian army group of persons by prior conspiracy motivated by political and national hatred)

[Samara eco-activist sentenced to 20 years in prison under three articles, including treason](#)

[Самарскую экоактивистку приговорили к 20 годам колонии по трем статьям, включая госизмену](#)

Art. 275 of the Criminal Code (High treason),

Article 223.1 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Illegal manufacture of explosives, as well as illegal manufacture, alteration or repair of explosive devices),

Art. 275 of the Criminal Code (High treason)

10.06.2025

[Ex-policeman sentenced to 14 years in the case of anti-war inscriptions and participation in a terrorist organization](#)

[Экс-милиционера приговорили к 14 годам по делу об антивоенных надписях и участии в терорганизации](#)

Art. 214 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Vandalism motivated by political hatred)

Art. 243 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Destruction or damage of military graves or memorial structures perpetuating the military glory of Russia).

Art. 205.5 part 2 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of a terrorist organization and participation in its activities)

06.06.2025

[A typist from the Sverdlovsk region was sentenced to 20 years for attempting to set fire to the military registration and enlistment office](#)

[Машинистку из Свердловской области приговорили к 20 годам за попытку поджога военкомата](#)

Art. 205.5 part 2 with the application of Article 30 part 1 of the Criminal Code (Organization of the activities of a terrorist organization and participation in its activities. Attempted commission of a crime),

Art. 275 of the Criminal Code (High treason)

Art. 205.3 (Undergoing training for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activities)

05.06.2025

[Ufa resident sentenced to 16 years in prison in the case of arson and incitement to hatred of United Russia](#)

[Уфимца приговорили к 16 годам колонии по делу о поджогах и возбуждении ненависти к «Единой России»](#)

Art. 282.1 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Organization of an extremist community),

Art. 282 Part 2 пункты «а» и «с» (Возбуждение ненависти либо вражды, а равно унижение человеческого достоинства с применением насилия или угрозой применения насилия, совершенные организованной группой),

Art. 205.2 part 1 (Public calls for terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism),

Art. 205 part 2 paragraph "a" (Terrorist act committed by prior conspiracy by a group of persons)

04.06.2025

[A resident of Smolensk was sentenced to 3 years in prison because of comments about the Armed Forces of Ukraine and a video about the USSR](#)

[Жителя Смоленска осудили на три года колонии из-за комментариев о ВСУ и видео об СССР](#)

Art. 205.2 part 1 (Public calls for terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism),

Art. 354.1, Part 2 paragraph "c" of the Criminal Code (Rehabilitation of Nazism using the Internet)

02.06.2025

[Four residents of the Stavropol Territory were sentenced to a colony for a term of 1 to 1,5 years because of lezginka](#)

[Четырех жителей Ставропольского края приговорили к колонии из-за лезгинки](#)

Art. 354.1, Part 4 of the Criminal Code (Rehabilitation of Nazism in the form of desecration of the symbols of the military glory of Russia, committed by a group of persons)

[In the self-proclaimed DPR, an American woman was sentenced in absentia to 20 years in the case of "fakes" and mercenary activities](#)

[В самопровозглашенной ДНР американку заочно осудили на 20 лет по делу о «фейках» и наемничестве](#)

Art. 207.3, part 2 of the Criminal Code (Dissemination of knowingly false information about a Russian army),

Art. 359 Part 3 of the Criminal Code (Mercenarism in the form of participation in an armed conflict or hostilities)

A fireside chat about Russian society and perceptions of war and sanctions at Carnegie Europe

[European Times](#)* (29.06.2025) - More than three years after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Kremlin maintains tight control over domestic narratives to be delivered to Russian society but also reinforces its legislative arsenal as a tool to silence dissenting voices.

To explore how Russians perceive and interpret the war, their country's trajectory, and the West, Carnegie Europe held a fireside chat with Alexander Baunov, senior fellow and editor-in-chief at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, and Olga Oliker, program director for Europe and Central Asia at the International Crisis Group. The event titled "Russia's Internal Front: Perspectives Beyond the Kremlin Line" took place in the premises of Carnegie Europe in Brussels on 26 June.

"Russian society is far from monolithic," Baunov said. Former regime insiders, opposition figures, and ordinary citizens express divergent perspectives that reveal a complex picture of the country's mood, resilience, and direction.

"Western sanctions have not affected the Russians' daily life. The country is sovereign and self-sufficient, there are no shortages in supermarkets, cultural life is as alive as before the war, and existing problems they could complain about are not related to the conflict. Patriotism of the people remains untouched in its essence but expresses itself in narratives which should not necessarily be equated with a support to Putin's regime and his political choices," Baunov also stressed.

His analysis of the perceptions of the Russian people about war, security, peace, sanctions, NATO, the Europeans, President Trump and the USA closely followed the findings of a recent survey carried out by [The Levada Analytical Center \(Levada-Center\)](#)

Public Opinion Research Amid Repression

Levada, an independent analytical institution, remains one of the few reliable sources regularly measuring public sentiment in Russia. Despite mounting pressure from the authorities, the center continues to use a range of data collection methods, including door-to-door surveys, online questionnaires, phone interviews, and focus groups. This methodology allows for representative findings backed by statistical analysis and time-series tracking. In the context of an autocratic and repressive regime, Levada's portraying of Russian society on sensitive issues has its limits but the institution is known to be professional and credible in its perimeter of freedom.

The data from the Levada-Center research as of 2025 is available [HERE](#).

Sanctions: More Symbolic Than Impactful

Interestingly, around two-thirds of respondents say that Western sanctions have not affected their daily lives. An overwhelming majority believe that sanctions are aimed at the country's leadership rather than its people. Sanctions are often viewed more as acts of external hostility than as genuine pressure. Over half of the respondents even believe that sanctions could strengthen Russia by encouraging internal development. A significant portion of the population continues to support the Kremlin's foreign policy direction, regardless of external pressure.

The West, the U.S., and the "Hope" in Trump

Russian attitudes toward the United States have shifted. While two-thirds of respondents still view U.S.–Russia relations as poor, public perception has improved somewhat amid ongoing diplomatic discussions. Against a backdrop of widespread disapproval of Joe Biden, Donald Trump is seen by many as a figure capable of restoring dialogue with Moscow. Nearly half of respondents believe that Trump's election could lead to improved bilateral relations. More than half support expanding ties with the West, indicating that isolationism has not fully taken root among the broader population, despite official rhetoric.

War and Peace: Support for the Army, but Fatigue with the Conflict

The Russian public maintains a steady interest in the conflict in Ukraine, with about half of respondents following events closely. A majority support the actions of the Russian military and believe that the "special military operation" is proceeding successfully. However, more than half also express support for transitioning to peace talks, primarily to save lives.

Notably, about one-third of respondents favor continuing military operations, driven by a desire to "finish what was started." Among the preferred conditions for a peace agreement, respondents most often cite prisoner exchanges, the protection of Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine, and the preservation of the status of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Conversely, Ukraine's potential NATO membership and the return of territories occupied by Russia are viewed as unacceptable concessions.

Domestic Mood: Cautious Optimism and Stable Support for the Authorities

As of February 2025, public sentiment in Russia has slightly improved compared to previous months. Most citizens, especially the young and politically loyal, assess the current situation in the country positively. Approval ratings for the government remain consistently high. If the State Duma elections had been held at that time, the ruling United Russia party would have received more than half of the vote. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) and the Communist Party (KPRF) would each secure around 10%, while A Just Russia and New People would each garner about 5%.

Looking ahead to 2026, a majority of respondents are optimistic—particularly younger people. In contrast, older and opposition-minded citizens tend to express more pessimistic views about the country's future.

Conclusion

Despite pervasive state propaganda, Russian society is neither homogenous nor entirely loyal. Public opinion research reveals a complex picture: widespread support for the authorities and military action coexists with war fatigue and a willingness to negotiate. Views on sanctions and the West are similarly mixed—Russians largely do not feel personally threatened, yet many express a desire to restore normal relations. These internal dynamics will be crucial in shaping how the Kremlin makes its next moves—both domestically and on the global stage.

(*) First published in The European Times on 29 June 2025

Political repression in May 2025: at least 28 Russians sentenced to almost 200-year prison terms (EN/ RU)

Политические репрессии в мае 2025 года: не менее 28 россиян приговорены к лишению свободы на общий срок более 200 лет (EN/RU)

Click on the title to read the full article/ Нажмите на заголовок, чтобы прочитать статью полностью

HRWF (05.06.2025) - On the basis of the research of the Russian association [OVD-Info](#), we have identified 28 cases of Russian citizens sentenced for political reasons to effective prison terms from 2 to 16 years (almost 200 years in total) in May 2025 and serving them in various detention centers. These statistics do not claim to be exhaustive but only reflect a part of the reality.

На основе исследований российского объединения ОВД-Инфо в мае 2025 года нами выявлено 28 случаев политически мотивированного осуждения граждан России к реальным срокам лишения свободы на срок от 2 до 16 лет (всего более 200 лет) и отбывания ими наказания в различных учреждениях исполнения наказания. Приведенная статистика не претендует на полноту, а лишь отражает часть реальности.

31.05.2025

[60-Year-Old Jehovah's Witness from Tambov Sentenced to 6 years in a colony](#)
[60-летнего Свидетеля Иеговы из Тамбова приговорили к шести годам колонии](#)

Art. 282.2, Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Organizing the activities of an extremist organization).

29.05.2025

[An officer convicted because of posts about the war in Ukraine was sentenced from 2.5 to 6 years in a colony](#)
[Осужденному из-за постов о войне в Украине офицеру увеличили срок с 2,5 до 6 лет колонии](#)

Art. 205.2, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls to commit terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism)- Art. 280, Part 2, of the Criminal Code (Calls for extremism) - Art. 280.4 UK, Part 2, paragraph "c" (Calls for activities directed against the security of the state).

[Librarian from Nenets Autonomous Okrug sentenced to 5 years 1/2 in a colony prison](#)
[Библиотекаря из Ненецкого автономного округа приговорили к пяти с половиной годам колонии](#)

Art. 282.4, Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Repeated propaganda of Nazi symbols) - Art. 280.3, Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Re-discrediting the army) - Art. 280.4 UK, Part 2, paragraph "c" (Calls for activities directed against the security of the state).

28.05.2025

[A resident of Akhtubinsk was sentenced to 2.5 years in a colony in the second case of discrediting the army](#)
[Жителя Ахтубинска приговорили к 2,5 годам колонии по второму делу о дискредитации армии](#)

Art. 280.3, Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Repeated discrediting the army).

[A resident of the Volgograd region was sentenced to 2 years in the case of calls for terrorism](#)
[Жителя Волгоградской области осудили на два года по делу о призывах к терроризму](#)

Art. 205.2, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls to commit terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism).

27.05.2025

[The founder of the "Kovcheg" was sentenced in absentia to 7.5 years in a colony in the case of military "fakes"](#)
[Основательницу «Ковчега» заочно осудили на 7,5 лет колонии по делу о военных «фейках»](#)

Art. 207.3, Part 2, § "e" of the Criminal Code (Spreading "fakes" about the Russian army motivated by political hatred).

26.05.2025

[An employee of the Russian Post was sentenced to 12 years because of FBK donations and leaflets "Freedom of Russia"](#)

[Сотрудника «Почты России» приговорили к 12 годам из-за донатов ФБК и листовок «Свобода России»](#)

Art. 282.3, Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Four episodes of financing extremist activities) - Art. 205.5, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Participation in a terrorist organization).

[A resident of the Far East was sentenced to 14 years in the case of "Artillery preparation" Жителя Дальнего Востока осудили на 14 лет по делу «Артподготовки»](#)

Art. 205.2, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls to commit terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism) - (Art. 280.4, Part 2, § "c" of the Criminal Code (Public calls for activities against the security of the Russian Federation) - Art. 205.5, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls to commit terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism).

[Ukrainian actor sentenced to nine years in absentia because of a post about a missile attack on Kramatorsk](#)

[Украинского актера приговорили к девяти годам заочно из-за поста о ракетном ударе по Краматорску](#)

Art. 207.3, Part 2, § "e" of the Criminal Code (Military "fakes" motivated by political hostility) - Art. 282, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Incitement to hatred).

21.05.2025

[A Krasnodar resident was sentenced to 5.5 years in a colony because of a post about the war and a portrait of Putin in the form of a penis](#)

[Краснодарца осудили на 5,5 лет колонии из-за поста о войне и портрета Путина в виде пениса](#)

Art. 207.3, Part 2, § "e" of the Criminal Code (Spreading "fakes" about the Russian army motivated by political hatred) - Art. 354.1, Part 4 of the Criminal Code (Desecration of symbols of military glory).

20.05.2025

[A political scientist who left Russia had his suspended sentence in the case of military "fakes" replaced with a real one: 5 years and 3 months](#)

[Уехавшему из России политологу заменили условный срок по делу о военных «фейках» на реальный](#)

Art. 207.3, Part 2, § "e" of the Criminal Code (Military "fakes").

[The winner of the contest "My Country - My Russia" was sentenced to 6 years in a colony](#)

[Победителя конкурса «Моя страна — моя Россия» приговорили к шести годам колонии](#)

Art. 205.2, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls to commit terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism).

[Ural anarchist sentenced to 16 years in prison in the case of arson of the military registration and enlistment office](#)

[Уральского анархиста приговорили к 16 годам лишения свободы по делу о поджоге военкомата](#)

Art. 205, Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Terrorist attack) - Art. 207.3, Part 2, § "b" and "e" of the Criminal Code (Distribution of "fakes" about the Russian army) - Art. 205.2, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Justification of terrorism).

16.05.2024

[A resident of the Moscow region was sentenced to 13 years in a colony because of an inscription about the losses of the Russian army](#)
[Жителя Подмосковья приговорили к 13 годам колонии из-за надписи о потерях армии РФ](#)

Art. 207.3 of the Criminal Code (Spreading "fakes" about the Russian army) - Art. 205.5, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Participation in the activities of a terrorist organization) - Art. 214, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Vandalism motivated by political hatred).

15.05.2025

[In the appeal, the prisoner's sentence was toughened in the case of spreading "fakes" in the colony: 7 years in a maximum security colony instead of the previously appointed 5 years](#)
[В апелляции заключенному ужесточили приговор по делу о распространении «фейков» в колонии](#)

Art. 207.3, Part 2, § "b" and "e" of the Criminal Code (Spreading military "fakes" by a group of persons motivated by political hatred).

14.05.2025

[Golos co-chairman sentenced to 5 years in a colony on charges of leading an "undesirable" organization](#)
[Сопредседателя «Голоса» осудили на пять лет по делу о руководстве «нежелательной» организацией](#)

Art. 284.1, Part 3 of the Criminal Code (Leading an "undesirable" organization).

13.05.2025

[The court toughened the sentence of a resident of Ulan-Ude, convicted in the case of financing the RDK, from 7 to 14 years in prison](#)
[Суд ужесточил приговор жителю Улан-Удэ, осужденному по делу о финансировании «РДК»](#)

Art. 275 of the Criminal Code (Treason) - Art. 205.2, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Justification of terrorism) - Art. 208, Part 1 of the Criminal Code with the application of Part 3 of Art. 30 of the Criminal Code (Attempt to create, lead or finance an armed formation).

12.05.2025

[Jehovah's Witness from Chelyabinsk Sentenced to 5,5 years in a colony](#)
[Свидетеля Иеговы из Челябинска приговорили к пяти с половиной годам колонии](#)

Art. 282.2, Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Organizing the activities of an extremist organization).

[A trans woman from Vologda was sentenced to 4 years in a colony because of a video about the Freedom of Russia Legion](#)
[Трансженщину из Вологды приговорили к четырем годам колонии из-за видео о легионе «Свобода России»](#)

Art. 205.2, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls to commit terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism)

06.05.2025

[In the Tver region, the activist's term was increased from 10 to 13 years of strict regime because of his speech in court](#)
[В Тверской области активисту увеличили срок с 10 до 13 лет строгого режима из-за речи в суде](#)

Article 205.2, Parts 1 and 2 of the Criminal Code (Public calls to commit terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism) - Art. 280.3 of the Criminal Code (Re-discrediting the Russian army).

05.05.2025

[Volgograd human rights activist sentenced to 6 years in a colony in the case of "fakes"](#)
[Волгоградского правозащитника приговорили к шести годам колонии по делу о «фейках»](#)

Art. 207.3, Part 2, § "e" of the Criminal Code (Spreading "fakes" about the army).

[Pediatrix Nadezhda Buyanova approved 5.5 years in a colony in the case of military "fakes"](#)
[Педиатру Надежде Буяновой утвердили 5,5 лет колонии по делу о военных «фейках»](#)

Art. 207.3, Part 2, § "e" of the Criminal Code (Spreading "fakes" about the army).

[Six protesters in Baymak were sentenced to terms of 5 to 5.5 years, in Orenburg](#)
[Шестерых участников протестов в Баймаке приговорили к срокам от 5 до 5,5 лет в Оренбурге](#)

Art. 212, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (Participating in mass riots) - Art. 318, Part 1 of the Criminal Code (Use of non-dangerous violence against a law enforcement officer).

Political repression in April 2025: At least 32 Russians sentenced to almost 160-year prison terms (EN/ RU)

Политические репрессии в апреле 2025 года: не менее 32 россияне приговорены к лишению свободы на общий срок почти 160 лет (EN/RU)

Click on the title to read the full article/ Нажмите на заголовок, чтобы прочитать статью полностью

HRWF (05.05.2025) - On the basis of the research of the Russian association [OVD-Info](#), we have identified 32 cases of Russian citizens sentenced to effective prison terms from

1.5 to 9 years (almost 160 years in all) in April 2025 and serving them in various detention centers. These statistics do not claim to be exhaustive but only reflect a part of the reality.

На основе исследований российского объединения ОВД-Инфо в апреле 2025 года нами выявлено 32 случая осуждения граждан России к реальным срокам лишения свободы от 1.5 до 9 лет (всего почти 160 лет) и отбывания ими наказания в различных колониях. Приведенная статистика не претендует на полноту, а лишь отражает часть реальности.

31.04.2025

[Jehovah's Witness from Lesosibirsk Sentenced to Six Years and One Month in Penal Colony](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из Лесосибирска приговорили к шести годам колонии, а его единоверку оштрафовали](#)

28.04.2025

[A lawyer from the Orenburg region was sentenced to 1.5 years in a penal colony in the case of military "fakes"](#)

[Юриста из Оренбургской области приговорили к 1,5 годам колонии-поселения по делу о военных «фейках»](#)

26.04.2025

[A teacher from Komi was sentenced to five years in a colony because of a comment about the Ukrainian Azov battalion](#)

[Учителя из Коми приговорили к пяти годам колонии из-за комментария про украинский батальон «Азов»](#)

22.04.2025

[Editor-in-Chief of Novaya Gazeta. Europe" was sentenced in absentia to six years in a colony](#)

[Главреда «Новой газеты. Европа» приговорили к шести годам колонии заочно](#)

[Businessman Boris Zimin was sentenced in absentia to nine years in a colony](#)

[Бизнесмена Бориса Зими́на приговорили к девяти годам лишения свободы заочно](#)

[A resident of the Irkutsk region was sentenced to seven years in a colony because of posts in Telegram](#)

[Жителя Иркутской области приговорили к семи годам колонии из-за постов в телеграме](#)

18.04.2025

[A 19-year-old St. Petersburg woman was sentenced to two years and eight months in a colony in the case of a poster with a quote from Taras Shevchenko](#)

[19-летнюю петербурженку приговорили к почти трем годам по делу о плакате с цитатой Тараса Шевченко](#)

["Orthodox communist and Stalinist" from the Leningrad region was convicted because of a comment on VKontakte to 1 year and 8 months in a penal colony](#)

[«Ортодоксального коммуниста и сталиниста» из Ленобласти осудили из-за комментария во «ВКонтакте»](#)

[An entrepreneur from the Moscow region was sentenced to six years in a colony in the case of military "fakes"](#)

[Предпринимательницу из Подмосковья приговорили к шести годам колонии по делу о военных «фейках»](#)

15.04.2025

[Four journalists accused of collaborating with the Anti-Corruption Foundation \(created by Alexei Navalny\) were sentenced to five and a half years in a colony](#)

[Журналистов, обвиняемых в сотрудничестве с ФБК, приговорили к пяти с половиной годам колонии](#)

[A former security official from Kirov was sentenced to five years in a colony because of comments about Bucha](#)

[Бывшего силовика из Кирова приговорили к пяти годам колонии из-за комментариев о Буче](#)

[A resident of the Vladimir region was sent to a colony for three years because of anti-war posts](#)

[Жителя Владимирской области отправили в колонию на три года из-за антивоенных постов](#)

[The convict in the Tyumen case of Hizb ut-Tahrir was sentenced to a new sentence: three years in a colony. The total term of his sentence after that is 13 years in a strict regime colony](#)

[Осужденному по тюменскому делу «Хизб ут-Тахрир» вынесли новый приговор](#)

[A hairdresser from St. Petersburg was sentenced to five years and two months in a colony in the case of "fakes"](#)

[Парикмахершу из Петербурга приговорили к пяти годам и двум месяцам колонии по делу о «фейках»](#)

11.04.2025

[In Khabarovsk, a teenager was sentenced to five years in an educational colony because of a chat in Telegram](#)

[В Хабаровске подростка приговорили к пяти годам воспитательной колонии из-за чата в телеграме](#)

10.04.2024

[Two students from Nizhny Novgorod were sentenced to 2.5 years in a colony because of a video for 26 subscribers](#)

[Двух студентов из Нижнего Новгорода приговорили к 2,5 годам колонии из-за видео для 26 подписчиков](#)

07.04.2025

[A nurse from Moscow was approved for eight years in a colony in the case of two anti-war posts](#)

[Медсестре из Москвы утвердили восемь лет колонии по делу о двух антивоенных постах](#)

[In Orenburg, five more defendants in the "Baymak case" were sentenced to terms ranging from 4.5 to 5.5 years in a colony](#)

[В Оренбурге еще пятерых фигурантов «баймакского дела» приговорили к срокам от 4,5 до 5,5 лет колонии](#)

04.04.2025

[The head of the Kamchatka Yabloko was sentenced to two years in a penal colony in the third criminal case](#)

[Главу камчатского «Яблока» приговорили к двум годам колонии-поселения по третьему уголовному делу](#)

03.04.2025

[The emigrated activist was sentenced in absentia to seven years in a colony because of posts about Bucha](#)

[Эмигрировавшего активиста заочно приговорили к семи годам колонии из-за постов про Бучу](#)

[Jehovah's Witness from Chelyabinsk Sentenced to Six Years in a colony](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из Челябинска приговорили к шести годам колонии](#)

02.04.2025

[A resident of Revda was sentenced to three years in a colony on trumped-up charges of rehabilitating Nazism and evading administrative supervision](#)

[Жителя Ревды приговорили к трем годам колонии после того, как он прикурил сигарету от Вечного огня](#)

[An opponent of the war was sentenced to five years and three months in a colony because of a comment on the news](#)

[Противника войны приговорили к пяти годам и трем месяцам колонии из-за комментария к новости](#)

[Defendant in the case of comments in support of the Russian Volunteer Corps and Azov sentenced to 6 years in a colony](#)

[Фигуранта дела о комментариях в поддержку РДК и «Азова» осудили на 6 лет колонии](#)

Case of missing Ukrainian children in Crimea under Russian jurisdiction raised in Strasbourg

Notification to Russian Government of a case concerning ten Ukrainian children from Crimean childcare institutions

[Registrar of the Court](#) (14.04.2025) - The European Court of Human Rights has given notice to the Government of the Russian Federation of the application Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union on behalf of ten Ukrainian children v. Russia (application no. 6719/23) and requested that they submit their observations.

The case concerns ten Ukrainian children who were in childcare in Crimea in 2014 when Russia asserted jurisdiction over the peninsula. According to the association (UHHRU) acting on their behalf, Russian nationality was forced on the children and they were put up for adoption and may have been adopted. There has been no information on their whereabouts since 2014, despite the Ukrainian authorities' repeated requests.

See also a previous [press release](#) on the case concerning a request to the European Court by UHHRU to grant an urgent interim measure (under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court) to stop the adoptions.

A [statement of facts](#) submitted to the parties, with questions from the Court, is available in English on the Court's website. The Court's ruling in the case will be made at a later stage.

Principal facts

The application was lodged by the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) on behalf of ten minors, born between 2009 and 2013, who are Ukrainian nationals by birth.

In 2014 the children were wards of the Ukrainian State living in childcare institutions in Crimea. At the time they were aged between one and five years old.

According to UHHRU, following Russia's assertion of jurisdiction over Crimea in 2014, over 4,000 children deprived of parental care were automatically declared Russian citizens. Despite the Ukrainian Government's requests, Russia refused to transfer the children to the Ukrainian authorities and initiated adoption procedures.

UHHRU submit that the ten children in the present case were put up for adoption and may have been adopted, judging from the sudden disappearance in 2023 of some of the children's names from adoption websites in Russia.

Currently, UHHRU has no contact with the children and there is no information regarding their whereabouts.

Complaints

Relying on Article 8 (right to respect for private life) of the European Convention on Human Rights, UHHRU argues that the arbitrary change of the children's citizenship and their adoption, which was facilitated by the Russian authorities in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine, deprived them of their social identity as Ukrainian nationals.

Relying on Article 5 (right to liberty and security) of the European Convention, UHHRU also complains about the Russian authorities' keeping the children in institutions after establishing effective control over Crimea.

Procedure

The application was lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 14 January 2023.

On 8 February 2023 the Court received a request for an interim measure under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court, in which UHHRU argued that there was an imminent risk that the applicants could be adopted, and that this was being facilitated by the Russian authorities. On 14 February 2023 the Court decided to refuse the request on the basis that it related

to events (the adoption of the applicants) after 16 September 2022, the date on which the Russian Federation ceased to be a Party to the Convention, and issued a [press release](#).

At the same time, the Court decided to grant the case priority, anonymity, and confidentiality under Rules 41, 47 § 4 and 33 § 2 of the Rules of the Court.

On 25 March 2025 the Government of Russia were given notice of the application with questions from the Court. The Government have until 31 July 2025 to submit their observations and were invited to confirm, within three weeks of the date on the Court's letter, whether they intend to comply with this deadline.

Political repression in March 2025: at least 44 Russians sentenced to about 250-year prison terms (EN/ RU)

Политические репрессии в марте 2025 года: не менее 44 россияне приговорены к срокам около 250 лет лишения свободы (EN/RU)

Click on the title to read the full article/ Нажмите на заголовок, чтобы прочитать статью полностью

HRWF (07.04.2025) - On the basis of the research of the Russian association [OVD-Info](#), we have identified 44 cases of Russian citizens sentenced to effective prison terms from 1 to 16 years (around 250 years in all) in March 2025 and serving them in various detention centers. These statistics do not claim to be exhaustive but only reflect a part of the reality.

На основе исследований российского объединения ОВД-Инфо нами выявлено 44 случая осуждения граждан России к реальным срокам лишения свободы от 1 до 16 лет (всего около 250 лет) в марте 2025 года и отбывания ими наказания в различных следственных изоляторах. Приведенная статистика не претендует на полноту, а лишь отражает часть реальности.

31.03.2025

[The publisher of Important Stories and the journalist of Dozhd were sentenced in absentia to eight and a half years](#)

[Издателя «Важных историй» и журналистку «Дождя» заочно приговорили к восьми с половиной годам](#)

[Four Jehovah's Witnesses from Tver Region Sentenced to Six Years in Prison](#)

[Четырех свидетелей Иеговы из Тверской области приговорили к шести годам колонии](#)

27.03.2025

[A resident of Kuban was sentenced to four years in prison because of comments on Telegram and VKontakte](#)

[Жителя Кубани приговорили к четырем годам колонии из-за комментариев в телеграме и «ВКонтакте»](#)

[The convict was sentenced because of comments about the death of Kadyrov. He participated in the trial lying down](#)

[Осужденному из-за комментариев о смерти Кадырова утвердили приговор. Он участвовал в суде лежа](#)

[Publicist Boris Stomakhin was sentenced in absentia to ten years in prison because of articles about the war in Ukraine](#)

[Публициста Бориса Стомахина заочно осудили на десять лет колонии из-за статей о войне в Украине](#)

[Four defendants in the "Baymak case" were sentenced to terms of up to seven and a half years in prison](#)

[Четырех фигурантов «баймакского дела» приговорили к срокам до семи с половиной лет колонии](#)

[RusNews journalist Maria Ponomarenko was sentenced to a year and ten months in a colony in a new case](#)

[Журналистку RusNews Марию Пономаренко приговорили к году и десяти месяцам колонии по новому делу](#)

25.02.2025

[St. Petersburg activist sentenced to two years in a colony because of anti-war pickets](#)

[Петербургскую активистку приговорили к двум годам колонии из-за антивоенных пикетов](#)

[Mordovian human rights activist sentenced to a year in a penal colony in the case of discrediting the army](#)

[Мордовского правозащитника приговорили к году колонии-поселения по делу о дискредитации армии](#)

23.03.2025

[Tuvan journalist sentenced to three years in a colony on charges of extortion](#)

[Тувинской журналистке назначили три года колонии по обвинению в вымогательстве](#)

22.03.2025

[An employee of a veterinary clinic from Chita was replaced with a suspended sentence in the "anti-war case" with a real one](#)

[Сотруднице ветклиники из Читы заменили условный срок по «антивоенному делу» на реальный](#)

21.03.2025

[In the Ulyanovsk region, the former head of the medical center was convicted in the case of the "international LGBT movement"](#)

[В Ульяновской области бывшего главу медцентра осудили по делу о «международном движении ЛГБТ»](#)

[Dissident Alexander Skobov, who spoke out against the war, was sentenced to 16 years in a colony](#)

[Выступавшего против войны диссидента Александра Скобова приговорили к 16 годам колонии](#)

19.03.2025

[Four defendants in the "Baymak case" were sentenced to real terms](#)

[Четырех фигурантов «баймакского дела» приговорили к реальным срокам](#)

18.03.2025

[A resident of the Altai Territory was convicted in the case of financing "undesirable" Ukrainian organizations](#)

[Жительницу Алтайского края осудили по делу о финансировании «нежелательных» украинских организаций](#)

14.03.2025

[A resident of the Kurgan region was sentenced to five years of forced labor in the case of military "fakes"](#)

[Жителю Курганской области назначили пять лет принудительных работ по делу о военных «фейках»](#)

[Five defendants in the "Baymak case" were sentenced to terms of up to five years in a colony](#)

[Пятерых фигурантов «баймакского дела» приговорили к срокам до пяти лет колонии](#)

13.03.2025

[A military court sentenced a native of Ukraine to 15 years in a colony in the case of arson of the military registration and enlistment office](#)

[Военный суд приговорил уроженца Украины к 15 годам колонии по делу о поджоге военкомата](#)

[A worker from Yekaterinburg was sentenced to a penal colony because of a comment about Tatarsky](#)

[Рабочего из Екатеринбурга приговорили к колонии из-за комментария про Татарского](#)

[A resident of the Stavropol Territory was sentenced to six years in a colony in the case of military "fakes"](#)

[Жительницу Ставропольского края приговорили к шести годам колонии по делу о военных «фейках»](#)

[The prisoner was sentenced to a new sentence in the case of spreading "fakes" in the colony](#)

[Заклученному назначили новый приговор по делу о распространении «фейков» в колонии](#)

12.03.2025

[Opposition blogger from Krasnodar Territory sentenced to seven years in a colony](#)

[Оппозиционного блогера из Краснодарского края приговорили к семи годам колонии](#)

[A resident of Tuapse was sentenced to three years of forced labor because of a post about the war with Ukraine](#)

[Жителя Туапсе приговорили к трем годам принудительных работ из-за поста о войне с Украиной](#)

11.03.2025

[**Jehovah's Witness was sentenced to 6 years in a colony. He spent 4 years in a pre-trial detention center and will soon be released**](#)

[Свидетелю Иеговы утвердили 6 лет колонии. Он 4 года провел в СИЗО и скоро выйдет на свободу](#)

10.03.2025

[**A director from Moscow was approved for eight years in a colony in the case of publications about the war and Putin**](#)

[Режиссерке из Москвы утвердили восемь лет колонии по делу о публикациях про войну и Путина](#)

[**Supporters of Svetlana Lada-Rus were sentenced to terms of up to five and a half years in a colony**](#)

[Сторонниц Светланы Лада-Русь приговорили к срокам до пяти с половиной лет колонии](#)

06.03.2025

[**Jehovah's Witness in Kemerovo Region Sentenced to 6 Years in a colony**](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы в Кемеровской области приговорили к 6 годам колонии](#)

[**A resident of the Khabarovsk Territory was sentenced to 6 years in a colony in the case of repeated discrediting and "fakes"**](#)

[Жителя Хабаровского края приговорили к 6 годам колонии по делу о повторной дискредитации и «фейках»](#)

[**Former Moscow deputy sentenced in absentia to eight years in prison because of post about Bucha and Irpin**](#)

[Бывшую московскую депутатку заочно приговорили к восьми годам колонии из-за поста о Буче и Ирпене](#)

04.03.2025

[**Sterlitamakov resident sentenced to 3 years because of the phrase "blow up this Moscow" and the words about the terrorist attack in Crocus**](#)

[Стерлитамаковца приговорили к 3 годам из-за фразы «взорвать эту Москву» и слов о теракте в «Крокусе»](#)

03.03.2025

[**Jehovah's Witness from Sakhalin Sentenced to Six Years in a colony**](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из Сахалина приговорили к шести годам колонии](#)

01.03.2025

[**Lawyer, previously prosecuted under the article on calls for terrorism, was placed in a mental hospital**](#)

[Юристка, ранее преследуемая по статье о призывах к терроризму, находится в психбольнице](#)

Political repression: Sentences to prison terms in February 2025 (EN/ RU)

Политические репрессии: приговоры к тюремному заключению в феврале 2025 года

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OVD-Info HRWF (03.03.2025)

28.02.2025

[The founder of the Gulagu.net Vladimir Osechkin was sentenced to 8 years in prison in absentia in the case of "fakes"](#)

[Основателя Gulagu.net Владимира Осечкина приговорили к 8 годам колонии заочно по делу о "фейках"](#)

27.02.2025

[Blogger from Shuya Sergey Veselov, convicted in the case of discrediting the army, received a new sentence](#)

[Осужденный по делу о дискредитации армии блогер из Шуи Сергей Веселов получил новый срок](#)

[Two residents of the Stavropol Territory were convicted in the case of burning cones in the Eternal Flame](#)

[Двух жителей Ставропольского края осудили по делу о сжигании шишек в Вечном огне](#)

[DOXA reaper Armen Aramyan sentenced in absentia to 10 years in prison under two criminal articles](#)

[Редактора DOXA Армена Арамяна заочно приговорили к 10 годам заключения по двум уголовным статьям](#)

[Jehovah's Witness from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky Sentenced to Six Years of Probation](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из Петропавловска-Камчатского приговорили к шести годам условного срока](#)

26.02.2025

[Jehovah's Witness Sentenced to More Than Four Years in Prison in Krasnodar Territory](#)

[В Краснодарском крае Свидетеля Иеговы осудили более чем на четыре года заключения](#)

[Two Wagner mercenaries were sentenced to 5.5 years in prison in the case of "fakes" because of an interview with Gulagu.net](#)

[Двум вагнеровцам назначили по 5,5 лет колонии по делу о "фейках" из-за интервью Gulagu.net](#)

[Five defendants in the case of the people's gathering in Baymak were sentenced to five years in prison](#)

[Пятерых фигурантов дела о народной сходе в Баймаке приговорили к пяти годам колонии](#)

[Crimean sentenced to five years in prison because of comments about Russians under YouTube videos](#)

[Крымчанина приговорили к пяти годам колонии из-за комментариев о русских под роликами на ютубе](#)

[Krasnodar resident sentenced to two years in the case of calls to set fire to military registration and enlistment offices](#)

[Краснодарца осудили на два года по делу о призывах поджигать военкоматы](#)

25.02.2025

[Muscovite sentenced to three and a half years in prison in the case of Anti-Corruption Foundation donations](#)

[Москвича приговорили к трем с половиной годам колонии по делу о донатах ФБК](#)

24.02.2025

[French political scientist approved sentence in case of collection of military data](#)

[Французскому политологу утвердили приговор по делу о сборе военных данных](#)

22.02.2025

[In the Kirov region, a cleaner was convicted because of a negative comment about a participant in the war in Ukraine](#)

[В Кировской области уборщицу осудили из-за негативного комментария об участнике войны в Украине](#)

21.02.2025

[Jehovah's Witness from Cherkessk Sentenced to Six Years and Three Months in a Penal Colony](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из Черкесска приговорили к шести годам и трем месяцам колонии](#)

[Kaliningrad resident sentenced to eight months in prison because of seven donations from the Anti-Corruption Foundation](#)

[Калининградца приговорили к восьми месяцам колонии из-за семи донатов ФБК](#)

20.02.2025

[Court Repeatedly Finds Jehovah's Witness Couple Guilty of Extremism and Toughens Punishment](#)

[Суд повторно признал супружескую пару Свидетелей Иеговы виновной в экстремизме и ужесточил наказание](#)

[64-Year-Old Jehovah's Witness from Krasnoyarsk Region Sentenced to Two Years Probation Again](#)

[64-летнего Свидетеля Иеговы из Красноярского края повторно приговорили к двум годам условно](#)

19.02.2025

[In Kuzbass, the first known sentence was issued due to the ban on the "International LGBT Movement"](#)

[В Кузбассе вынесли первый известный приговор из-за запрета "Международного движения ЛГБТ"](#)

18.02.2025

[A student from Murmansk was sentenced to 13 years in prison in a case of treason](#)

[Студента из Мурманска осудили на 13 лет колонии по делу о госизмене](#)

17.02.2025

[Kazan businessman sentenced to five years in prison because of words about "Russians" and "those who are for the Special Military Operation"](#)

[Казанского бизнесмена приговорили к пяти годам колонии из-за слов о "русне" и "тех, кто за СВО"](#)

14.02.2025

[Kostromich was sentenced to four years in prison because of an attempt to join the Freedom of Russia Legion](#)

[Костромича приговорили к четырем годам колонии из-за попытки вступить в легион "Свобода России"](#)

13.02.2025

[Ex-member of Nizhny Novgorod "Yabloko" sentenced to three years in prison in the case of "Navalny's headquarters"](#)

[Экс-члена нижегородского "Яблока" приговорили к трем годам колонии по делу о "штабах Навального"](#)

[Vladimir supporter of Duntsova sentenced to two years in prison because of publications in Telegram](#)

[Владимирского сторонника Дунцовой приговорили к двум годам колонии из-за публикаций в телеграме](#)

[Jehovah's Witness from Altai Krai sentenced to 3 Years in Prison](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из Алтайского края приговорили к 3 годам колонии](#)

11.02.2025

[A resident of Naberezhnye Chelny was sentenced to a suspended sentence in the case of discrediting the army](#)

[Жителя Набережных челнов приговорили к условному сроку по делу о дискредитации армии](#)

10.02.2025

[A resident of the Stavropol Territory was sentenced to one and a half years in prison because of tattoos with the symbols of "AUE"](#)

[Жителя Ставропольского края приговорили к полутора годам колонии из-за татуировок с символикой "АУЕ"](#)

[A Crimean who shouted "Slava Ukraine" in court was sentenced to six months in a penal colony](#)

[Крымчанину, кричавшему в суде "Слава Украине", назначили шесть месяцев колонии-поселения](#)

[The Moscow City Court approved the sentence to the administrator of the Moscow Calling telegram channel in the case of military "fakes"](#)

[Мосгорсуд утвердил приговор администратору телеграм-канала Moscow Calling по делу о военных «фейках»](#)

07.02.2025

[In St. Petersburg, a man was sentenced to 11 years in prison because of correspondence with the Freedom of Russia Legion](#)

[В Петербурге мужчину приговорили к 11 годам заключения из-за переписки с легионом "Свобода России"](#)

[Six people persecuted in the wake of the people's gathering in Baymak were sentenced to terms of up to five years](#)

[Шесть человек, преследуемых по следам народного схода в Баймаке, приговорили к срокам до пяти лет](#)

[Orthodox blogger from Buryatia sentenced to forced labor in a case of violence](#)

[Православного блогера из Бурятии приговорили к принудительным работам по делу о применении насилия](#)

[Jehovah's Witnesses from Izhevsk Have Suspended Sentences Replaced with Real Sentences](#)

[Свидетелям Иеговы из Ижевска заменили условные сроки на реальные](#)

07.02.2025

[Samara saxophonist Andrei Shabanov was sentenced to six years in prison in the case of writing a post about the war](#)

[Самарского саксофониста Андрея Шабанова приговорили к шести годам колонии по делу о посте про войну](#)

05.02.2025

[78-Year-Old Jehovah's Witness from Khabarovsk Territory Sentenced to Probation for Correspondence](#)

[78-летнюю Свидетельницу Иеговы из Хабаровского края приговорили к условному сроку из-за переписки](#)

[Khristoljub Vegan was sentenced to three years in a penal colony because of his words about Islam and Soviet soldiers](#)

[Христолюбя Вегана осудили на три года колонии-поселения из-за слов об исламе и советских солдатах](#)

04.02.2025

[Jehovah's Witness from Krasnodar sentenced to 6 years and 5 months in prison](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из Краснодара приговорили к 6 годам и 5 месяцам колонии](#)

[A resident of the Altai Territory was sentenced to five years in prison because of statements on the Internet](#)

[Жителя Алтайского края приговорили к пяти годам колонии из-за высказываний в интернете](#)

[Ex-National Bolshevik from Chelyabinsk sentenced to six years in prison because of comments on VKontakte](#)

[Экс-нацбола из Челябинска приговорили к шести годам колонии из-за комментариев во «ВКонтакте»](#)

[Jehovah's Witnesses from Primorsky Krai Sentenced](#)

[Свидетелям Иеговы из Приморского края вынесли приговоры](#)

03.02.2025

[The military was sentenced to two and a half years in prison because of posts about the war in Ukraine](#)

[Военного приговорили к двум с половиной годам колонии из-за постов о войне в Украине](#)

**Political repression: Sentences to prison terms in
January 2025 (EN/ RU)**

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прочитать статью полностью*

31.01.2025

[A resident of Buryatia was sentenced to 7 years in a colony in the case of financing the RDK and justifying terrorism](#)

[Жителю Бурятии назначили 7 лет колонии по делу о финансировании «РДК» и оправданию терроризма](#)

[A Volgograd resident was sentenced to four years in prison because of comments on YouTube about the war in Ukraine](#)

[Волгоградца приговорили к четырем годам колонии из-за комментариев в ютубе о войне в Украине](#)

30.01.2025

[The ex-head of the Serpukhov district of the Moscow region approved the verdict in a new criminal case](#)

[Экс-главе Серпуховского района Подмосковья утвердили приговор по новому уголовному делу](#)

30.01.2025

[The ex-coordinator of the Kuzbass movement "Golos" was sentenced to four years and a month in a colony](#)

[Экс-координатора кузбасского движения «Голос» приговорили к четырем годам и месяцу колонии](#)

29.01.2025

[A resident of Bratsk was sentenced to 18 years in a maximum security colony in the case of burning the military registration and enlistment office](#)

[Жителя Братска приговорили к 18 годам колонии строгого режима по делу о пожаре военкомата](#)

[A resident of Orenburg was sentenced to two and a half years in a penal colony on anti-war cases](#)

[Жительницу Оренбурга приговорили к двум с половиной годам колонии-поселения по антивоенным делам](#)

[Krasnoyarsk resident sentenced to two years in a colony because of calls to overthrow the government in Russia](#)

[Красноярца приговорили к двум годам колонии из-за призывов свергнуть власть в России](#)

28.01.2025

[The defendant in the "Baymak case" was sentenced to a real term. She will serve her sentence later](#)

[Фигурантку «баймакского дела» приговорили к реальному сроку. Отбывать наказание она будет позже](#)

[Jehovah's Witness from Primorsky Krai Sentenced to Three Years Probation](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из Приморского края приговорили к трем годам условно](#)

27.01.2025

[Engineer from Tatarstan sentenced to two and a half years in a colony in case of extremism](#)

[Инженера из Татарстана приговорили к двум с половиной годам колонии по делу об экстремизме](#)

[A pensioner from Moscow was sentenced to eight years in a colony because of a letter to the Prosecutor General](#)

[Пенсионера из Москвы приговорили к восьми годам колонии из-за письма генпрокурору](#)

[An emigrated Russian woman was sentenced in the second case of military "fakes"](#)

[Эмигрировавшей россиянке вынесли приговор по уже второму делу о военных «фейках»](#)

23.01.2025

[Jehovah's Witness from Kostroma sentenced to five years of strict regime in a new case](#)

[Свидетеля Иеговы из Костромы приговорили к пяти годам строгого режима по новому делу](#)

[A St. Petersburg woman was sentenced to three years in a colony because of a video calling for the liberation of Russia from Putin](#)

[Петербурженку приговорили к трем годам колонии из-за видео с призывом освободить Россию от Путина](#)

[A court in Moscow sentenced Ukrainian journalist Yanina Sokolovskaya in absentia to seven and a half years](#)

[Суд в Москве заочно приговорил украинскую журналистку Янину Соколовскую к семи с половиной годам](#)

21.01.2025

[In Belgorod, the programmer who set fire to the letter Z was sentenced to 6.5 years in the case of possession of explosives](#)

[В Белгороде программиста, поджегшего букву Z, осудили на 6,5 лет по делу о хранении взрывчатки](#)

[A former military man from St. Petersburg was punished in the case of "fakes" about the army](#)

[Бывшему военному из Петербурга ужесточили наказание по делу о «фейках» про армию](#)

20.01.2025

[Two 66-year-old Jehovah's Witnesses Sentenced to Five-and-a-Half-Year Probation](#)

[Двух 66-летних Свидетельниц Иеговы приговорили к пяти с половиной годам условно](#)

[Jehovah's Witness from Karachay-Cherkessia Sentenced to Suspended Sentence](#)

[Свидетельницу Иеговы из Карачаево-Черкесии приговорили к условному сроку](#)

[In Karachay-Cherkessia, Jehovah's Witness Sentenced to Six Years Probation](#)

[В Карачаево-Черкесии Свидетеля Иеговы приговорили к шести годам условно](#)

[Pskov activist sentenced to a year of probation in the case of repeated discrediting of the army](#)

[Псковского активиста приговорили к году условно по делу о повторной дискредитации армии](#)

17.01.2025

[Three of Navalny's lawyers were sentenced to terms of up to 5.5 years in a colony](#)

[Троих адвокатов Навального приговорили к сроками до 5,5 лет колонии](#)

[A resident of the Kuban, detained because of the arson of the banner "We do not leave our own", was sentenced to 13 years](#)

[Жителя Кубани, задержанного из-за поджога баннера «Своих не бросаем», осудили на 13 лет](#)

[Sochi engineer sentenced to five and a half years in the case of anti-war posts](#)

[Сочинского инженера приговорили к пяти с половиной годам по делу об антивоенных постах](#)

[A butcher from Tajikistan was sentenced to seven years in a colony in the case of "fakes" and hooliganism](#)

[Мясника из Таджикистана приговорили к семи годам колонии по делу о «фейках» и о хулиганстве](#)

14.01.2025

**[Jehovah's Witnesses from Crimea Sentenced to Six Years in a colony](#)
[Свидетелей Иеговы из Крыма приговорили к шести годам колонии](#)**

[A court in Moscow sentenced the mayor of Dnipro in absentia to nine years in prison because of posts about the war](#)

[Суд в Москве заочно приговорил мэра Днепра к девяти годам колонии из-за постов о войне](#)

[A human rights activist from Zlatoust was sentenced to a suspended sentence in the case of discrediting the army](#)

[Правозащитницу из Златоуста приговорили к условному сроку по делу о дискредитации армии](#)

13.01.2025

[A motorcyclist blogger from the Perm Territory was sentenced to 6 years because of posts about the explosion of the Crimean bridge](#)

[К 6 годам приговорили блогера-мотоциклиста из Пермского края из-за постов о взрыве Крымского моста](#)

[The defendants in the case of arson of the military registration and enlistment office in Goryachy Klyuch were sentenced to 12 and 13 years in prison](#)

[Фигурантам дела о поджоге военкомата в Горячем Ключе назначили 12 и 13 лет заключения](#)

The first prisoner exchange of 2025 after the 11 swaps in 2024. EU 'out of the game'

By Willy Fautré, director of Human Rights Without Frontiers and Dr Ievgeniia Gidulianova

HRWF (31.01.2025) - On 15 January, **[25 soldiers](#)** and civilians **[returned to Ukraine](#)** from Russian captivity. The same number of prisoners was handed over to Russia.

Our research below shows that the new exchange took place again with the support of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the EU was again "out of the game" despite repeated public statements that the EU is "deeply involved" in the repatriation of Ukrainian prisoners of war and deported children. Their last statement was made at the 28 January session of the Subcommittee for Human Rights of the European Parliament in Brussels.

Ukrainian President Zelensky said that among those released there were defenders of Mariupol and Azovstal, as well as Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson. He also noted that they were seriously injured and ill.

Among the returnees there was also a civilian. The occupiers seized him in the Kyiv region and illegally detained him. The Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said that all repatriated servicemen were soldiers, including sailors. The youngest released is 24 years old and the oldest 60.

The injured have, in particular, vision loss, limb amputations, complex wounds caused by bullets and land mines. Among the diseases are tuberculosis, oncology, gangrene...

Overview of the 11 exchanges or prisoners of war (POW) in 2024

December 2024

Source : [Hundreds of soldiers freed in the latest prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine \(AP\)](#)

Approximate date: End of December

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 189 Ukrainians
87 soldiers from the army including 14 officers, 43 from the national guard, 33 border guards, 24 from the navy and two civilians.

According to Moscow:
150 Ukrainians/ 150 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

October 2024

Source : [95 at large: LIST of those released from captivity 18 October 2024 Russia, Ukraine conduct prisoner swap, exchange of bodies](#)

Approximate date: 18 October

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 95 Ukrainians
Among those released from captivity: National Guardsmen, military sailors, soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, border guards, representatives of other units of the Security and Defense Forces. 69 soldiers and sergeants and 26 officers.

According to Moscow: [The Ministry of Defense reported on the exchange of prisoners of war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine in the "95 for 95" format](#)
95 Ukrainians/ 95 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

September 2024

Source : [For the second day in a row, Ukraine exchanged another 103 soldiers](#)

Approximate date: 14 September

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 103 Ukrainians

Among them: privates and sergeants, 21 officers, and there were also two Chernobyl guards.

According to Moscow [The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation announced the return of 103 soldiers captured in the Kursk region](#)

103 Ukrainians/ 103 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

Source : [Defenders of Azovstal and not only. Ukraine returned another 49 soldiers from captivity](#)

Approximate date: 13 September

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 49 Ukrainians

Among the released are 23 soldiers and sergeants, 19 officers, 7 are civilians. Among them were 23 women, including Ukrainian civilians, who were illegally detained by the Russians. It was also possible to release women who were subjected to inhumane treatment, in particular, due to forced participation in the so-called "trial" of the defenders of Mariupol. Crimean activist [Nienia Umerova](#), who was captured by the Russians while crossing the border of Georgia, was released.

According to Moscow: [Russia and Ukraine exchanged prisoners](#)

49 Ukrainians/ 49 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

August 2024

Source : [On August 24, Ukraine exchanged prisoners of war with the Russian side with the assistance of the United Arab Emirates. 115 Ukrainian soldiers returned home](#)

Approximate date: 24 August

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 115 Ukrainians

These were soldiers of the National Guard, the Armed Forces, the Navy, the State Border Guard Service

According to Moscow: [The Ukrainian side returned 103 Russian soldiers captured in the Kursk region, the same number of servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine were handed over to Kyiv](#)

115 Ukrainians/ 115 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

July 2024

Source : [Exchange with the Russian Federation: 95 prisoners of war returned to Ukraine](#)

Approximate date: 17 July

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 95 Ukrainians
These were soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the National Guard and border guards.

According to Moscow:
[The exchange of prisoners between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on July 17 was the fifth since the beginning of 2024](#)
_95 Ukrainians/ 95 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

June 2024

Source : [Ukraine returned 90 fighters from Russian captivity, including defenders of Mariupol](#)

Approximate date: 25 June

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 90 Ukrainians
These were soldiers of the National Guard, Navy, armies, territorial defenders and border guards.

According to Moscow: [Another exchange of prisoners of war was carried out: 90 Russian servicemen were returned](#)
90 Ukrainians/ 90 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

May 2024

Source : [Ukraine returned 90 fighters from Russian captivity, including defenders of Mariupol](#)

Approximate date: 31 May

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 75 Ukrainians
These were sergeants and officers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the National Guard of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and civilians. 19 people captured from

Zmiinyi Island, 10 defenders of Mariupol and Azovstal, Ukrainian soldiers captured in different locations.

According to Moscow: [Special operation, May 31: Russia and Ukraine exchanged prisoners](#)

75 Ukrainians/ 75 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

February 2024

Source (Title and link): [A new exchange of prisoners took place 100 for 100](#)

Approximate date: 8 February

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 100 Ukrainians

Among the rescued servicemen there were 49 soldiers of the National Guard of Ukraine, 25 border guards, 26 servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, including 11 territorial defenders.

According to Moscow: [Russia and Ukraine exchanged a hundred soldiers each](#)

100 Ukrainians/ 100 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

January 2024

Source: [Ukraine has returned more than 200 people from captivity of the Russian Federation. Here's What We Know](#)

Approximate date: 31 January

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 207 Ukrainians

These 207 Ukrainians were soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the National Guard, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, the National Police — private people, sergeants, and officers.

According to Moscow: [How the largest exchange of prisoners between Russia and Ukraine took place](#)

195 Ukrainians/ 195 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

3 January 2024

Source: [The largest exchange of prisoners during the full-scale invasion: 230 Ukrainians were released](#)

Approximate date: 3 January

Approximate numbers:

According to Kyiv: 230 Ukrainians

Among them were 130 people – 55 servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – 38 soldiers of the National Guard – 1 State Border Guard Service - National Police and 6 civilians who were illegally deprived of their liberty.

According to Moscow: [The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation returned 248 servicemen from Ukrainian captivity](#)

230 Ukrainians/ 248 Russians

Facilitator of the exchange: U.A.E.

Repressions in Russia in 2024, a review of OVD-Info

Introduction

[OVD](#) (16.01.2025) - The year 2024 for Russian civil society, as well as the two previous years, was marked by the unrelying war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Political persecution continued throughout Russia throughout the year. The main trends of the past years have been preserved - pointing, strikes on vulnerable groups, adoption of repressive laws. In addition, one of the terrible leitmotifs of the year was the death of people deprived of their liberty for political reasons: Alexei Navalny was killed, four more people died in prison, two - from the consequences of being in isolation, one - from the consequences of detention.

One of the most important events in the history of political persecution in 2024 was the "Baymak case" in Bashkortostan, which affected dozens of people. Another is the exchange of prisoners between Russia and Western countries, in which 16 people were released, most of them are prosecuted in politically motivated cases. We also saw a sharp increase in criminal prosecutions of "foreign agents" and a scaling of the persecution of LGBTQ+ people.

The report uses data and analytics of participants of OVD-Info, the [Sova](#) Research Center, the [Exit](#) group, the [Thunderstorm](#) media, the [first department](#) and the [Team against torture](#) human rights projects.

We receive information about politically motivated persecution from different sources - websites of Russian courts and departments, the media, the persecuted themselves and their relatives. Due to the limited information available - in particular, the texts of court decisions - and the resulting impossibility of tracking all prosecutions in real time, our data is obviously incomplete, but we consider it correct and useful to publish the available and contribute to the description of the objective picture of political persecution in Russia.

We also publish data on persecution in the annexed territories of Crimea and Sevastopol - repressions there are carried out by Russian law enforcement agencies, and we have the

opportunity to verify this data. As for the occupied territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine, we have decided to monitor data on what is happening there only this year, and so far, including due to the difficulty in obtaining and verifying this data, we are not ready to consider and count them on a par with the rest.

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Note: Use the automatic translation if you cannot read Russian
