

UNHEARD VOICES



UNHEARD VOICES

post-soviet left
2025

INTRODUCTION	7
RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AND LIES ABOUT THE ANTI- FASCIST STRUGGLE	9
LIFE BEHIND BARBED WIRE	11
CONDITIONS OF INPRISONMENT	12
WHY SHOULD THE INTERNATIONAL LEFT CARE ABOUT THIS?	14
VOICES FROM BEHIND PRISON BARS	15
TYUMEN CASE	16
NETWORK CASE (DELO SETI)	20
CHITA CASE	26
THE CASE OF THE "LEFT RESISTANCE"	29
THE CASE OF THE UFA MARXIST GROUP	30
THE CASE OF THE KANSK TEENAGERS	33
THE STORY OF AZAT MIFTAKHOV	35
THE STORY OF BORIS KAGARLITSKY	37
"ANTIFA UNITED" CASE	40
THE CASE OF ALEXEY ROZHKOV	41
THE CASE OF RUSLAN USHAKOV	42
THE CASE OF SAVELIY FROLOV	43
THE CASE OF GAGIK GRIGORYAN	45

THE CASE OF VLADIMIR TIMOFEEV	46
THE CASE OF FELIX ELISEEV	47
THE CASE OF ANTON ORLOV	49
THE CASE OF YURI MIKHEEV	50
THE CASE OF MAXIM SMYSHLYAEV	52
THE CASE OF ARTYOM SAMSONOV	53
THE CASE OF KONSTANTIN PAVLOV	55
THE CASE OF LEONID BOGRATEON	56
THE CASE OF PAVEL KRISEVICH	59
SERGEY UDALTSOV'S CASES.....	61
REPRESSION CONTINUES	64
THE CASE OF NIKITA LOPATIN.....	64
THE CASES OF SERGEY KRUPENKO.....	65
THE CASE OF ANATOLY OBUKHOV	68
THE CASE OF IVAN MEREZHNIKOV	71
THE CASE OF "WORKERS POWER" AND GARRY AZARYAN	73
THE CASE OF ARTYOM BORODIN	76
HOW TO BREAK THE SILENCE?	79
CONCLUSION	82

INTRODUCTION

According to human rights activists, in 2024 the number of political prisoners in Russia reached at least 1,198 people, a third more than in the previous year, when there were 807 such cases.

OVD-Info gives an even wider estimate: as of 2025, about 3,300 people are being held on politically motivated charges, of which about 1,600 are in custody.

Co-chairman of the Memorial human rights center Sergei Davidis cites an even more alarming figure - about 10,000 people. This data clearly show that political repression becomes a systemic element of modern Russia.

Among the political prisoners, a remarkable place is taken by representatives of the leftist movement: communists, anarchists, socialists and other fighters for social justice and democracy. Their stories are examples of the resilience and courage of people who stand up to a repressive system in the name of their ideals. Their position is an open challenge to the repressive apparatus, their deeds are evidence of the fight against obscurantism, authoritarianism and social inequality. They are not just victims of the regime. They are an active force of resistance, ready to pay the highest price for their beliefs and the future of millions of people: freedom.

This book is the voice of those who are unheard. This is the voice of left-wing activists, whose names rarely make the news of state and "independent" media. Therefore, their struggle often becomes invisible both in Russia and abroad.

Mainstream journalists either ignore left-wing political prisoners altogether or deliberately keep silent about their political position. This is unfair. Moreover, it is tragic, because behind each case there is a person who is ready to sacrifice his freedom for the ideals of equality, social justice and democracy. This book aims to bring back their voices by telling their stories.

This project was created by activists from the *Post-Soviet Left (PSL)* to bring unheard voices to a wider audience, break the silence and build bridges of solidarity. We have collected biographical information about left-wing activists in custody, details of their criminal prosecution and information on how to support each of them.

We also consider it important to mention those resistance members who are not yet in captivity, but have already begun to be persecuted. Among them are activists and leaders whose cases are becoming increasingly high-profile:

- Attempts to initiate cases against the editorial board of "Krasniy Povорот" ("Red Turn") and the Russian Communist Party (Internationalists) (RKP(i)), representatives of the Organization of Voronezh Marxists;
- Police raid on a meeting of the Organization of Communist Internationalists (OKI);
- Assignment of foreign agent status and physical and administrative pressure on activists of the Student Anti-Fascist Front (SAF), bloggers Alexander Shtefanov, Vasily Sadonin, Andrei Rudoy, politicians Mikhail Lobanov, Evgeny Stupin and others in order to force them out of the country and intimidate them;
- The circumstances of the murder of the editor of the left-wing resource "Rabkor" Alexander Rybin also remain unclear.

Despite the growth of repression, the left alternative continues to live and tries not only to survive, but also to develop itself. During the war years in Russia, in addition to the already existing initiatives, the organizations "InterFront" and "Workers' Power" were also appeared.

Our organization, which has united left internationalists in emigration and exile from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Central Asian countries, also takes part in organizing resistance abroad. We believe that right now it is necessary to continue to resist repression and strengthen international solidarity.

Important note: we do not always express political support for everyone mentioned in the book. We stand on left-wing internationalist positions. However, we see what is happening not only through the prism of ideological differences, but also from the point of view of the basic principle – the unacceptability of repression for beliefs and activism. We are convinced that everyone who suffers for their views and participation in social action deserves support and protection.

This book is our contribution to the fight for justice.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AND LIES ABOUT THE ANTI-FASCIST STRUGGLE

The Russian authorities, justifying their aggression against Ukraine, use the term "denazification". This has become part of state propaganda aimed at creating a myth about Russia as an anti-fascist power that supposedly continues to defend Soviet legacy and ideals.

This idea has caught the attention of some on the international left, who, by mistake or unwillingness to take the issue seriously, have come to believe in such rhetoric. Therefore, they consider it a "lesser evil" compared to their own enemies.

The reality is far from this myth. Dozens of anti-fascists and left-wing activists are currently being held in Russian prisons, the number of people is close to a hundred. At the same time, the authorities continue to praise the generals and supporters of the "White Army", many of whom fought on the side of the Wehrmacht during World War II and praised Nazism (ataman Pyotr Krasnov, writer Ivan Shmelyov, philosopher Ivan Ilyin, and others).

The imperial past, known for its crimes against the indigenous peoples of Russia and Central Asia, is also actively mythologized and concealed. Not only have the organizers of the social catastrophe of the 1990s not been brought to trial, but they also constitute a significant part of the state leadership.

Modern Russia not only has nothing to do with anti-fascism. On the contrary, Putin's regime actively sponsors and unites the far right both domestically and in Europe. Suffice to recall the conservative forum in St. Petersburg in 2015, the repeated flirtation with the far-right party "Alternative for Germany" (*AfD*). Leaders of European far-right parties (*the neo-Nazi NDP of Germany, the Greek "Golden Dawn", the former head of the British BNP and others*) speak on the same stage.

It is also worth recalling the creation of the Higher Political School named after the fascist Ivan Ilyin in 2024. Officials openly justify the latter - for example, the speaker of the State Duma Volodin in 2024 refused to remove Ilyin's name from the name of the educational center, despite protests from deputies. Moreover, in 2016, a monument to ataman Pyotr Krasnov (*executed for serving the Nazis*) was initially erected in the Rostov Region, and only a public outrage forced the authorities to dismantle it as the one glorifying Nazism.

The Russian authorities also openly sponsor neo-Nazi paramilitary organizations, such as the "Rusich DShRG" (*Sabotage and assault reconnaissance group "Rusich"*), "the Española volunteer brigade", "the Redut PMC", and the Imperial Legion". Neo-Nazis from the 'Russkaya Obshchina' (*"Russian Community"*) and "Severniy Chelovek" (*"Northern Man"*) organizations, sponsored by the Putin administration, operate on the home front, receiving state grants to incite anti-migrant hatred. Anti-fascism has become just a demagogic cover for insidious political goals that only actually support the fascisation of Russia and other countries.

It is especially important to emphasize that some representatives of the Russian liberal opposition also contribute to the strengthening of the myth. Among them, there is an opinion that Vladimir Putin continues the policy of the Soviet authorities and is a supporter of leftist beliefs. However, this opinion is deeply erroneous.

In reality, Putin and his regime are built on ideas that are the exact opposite to leftist values: conservatism, Russian nationalism, of Russian greatness, and authoritarianism. The official Communist Party was subjected to several waves of purges. In their course, any disloyalty

to the regime's policies was systematically eradicated from the ranks. The last such purge began at the beginning of the war and is still going on.

True leftist ideals, on the other hand, reject militarism, repression, and nationalism. In turn, the false idea of "Soviet continuity" only distracts from the real nature of the current government, which supports reactionary, anti-democratic and anti-social ideas.

The term "denazification" in the Kremlin's propaganda only serves to justify aggressive foreign policy and internal repression. This political rhetoric only masks the true goals of the government, while in fact the Russian system is more like an authoritarian nationalist dictatorship that rejects democratic and social principles.

This book, among other things, is designed to debunk myths about Russia as an anti-fascist power and show the whole truth about the political situation in the country.

LIFE BEHIND BARBED WIRE

For most people in first-world countries, imprisonment is associated with basic human rights: affordable medical care, nutritious food, the possibility of appealing a sentence and rehabilitation. In Russia, prison is not just a measure of punishment, but a tool for suppressing and breaking the personality, especially in relation to political prisoners.

Although the modern penitentiary system inherits the Soviet one, many of its darkest features have already taken root in the post-Soviet period. According to the testimonies of prisoners and human rights activists themselves, it was from the 2000s that the conditions of detention in Russian colonies began to tighten rapidly: the control of the administration was strengthened, the so-called "krasniye zony" ("red zones") began to prevail, where power belongs not to the influential prisoners or gang circles, but to the administration, which acts with maximum severity and uses not only administrative punishments, but also institutionalized violence.

In such conditions, thousands of people are isolated, face torture, psychological and physical pressure, arbitrariness by employees and the lack of real protection mechanisms. All of this makes Russian prisons and colonies an integral part of Russia's right-wing authoritarian dictatorship.

CONDITIONS OF INPRISONMENT

Russian prisons are often located in remote, harsh regions where temperatures can drop to -40°C degrees in winter. Prisoners often live in barracks with poor heating, insufficient ventilation and dampness. Mattresses are thin and blankets do not save from the cold.

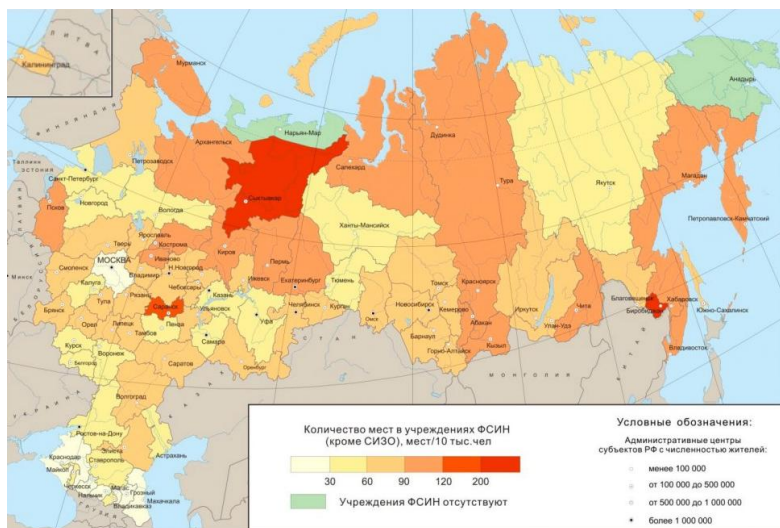


Figure 1. Number of places in the institutions of the FSIN (Federal Penitentiary Service, penitentiary system of Russia) per 10 thousand people of the permanent population, 2014. Now the information is losing its relevance, but the regional departments of the Federal Penitentiary Service do not always publish updated information about institutions.

This is confirmed by letters from the prisoners themselves. For example, anarchist Alexander Snezhkov from the "Chita case" in 2024

reported that after being transferred to the colony, he was placed in a SHIZO (punishment cell), where he was kept in the cold conditions for many days – the administration sees him as a "potential rebel" and therefore continually extends his solitary confinement under far-fetched pretexts (either "he sat down incorrectly," or "he sat on the floor").

According to OVD-Info, in 2023, at least 40 political prisoners were sent to solitary confinement, many of them several times; in total, there were 82 placements in solitary confinement with a total duration of 1,015 days per year.

A separate problem is the food of the prisoners. The menu of cheap cereals and stale products does not provide even the minimum calorie content. The existing food standards are outdated, and the food quality control system is either absent or formal. For political prisoners, to whom relatives cannot always pass parcels due to the remoteness of the colonies, this becomes a real test.

Medicine in Russian prisons is rather a fiction. Prisoners can wait weeks for a doctor, and getting even basic medication turns into a bureaucratic hell. Political prisoners are often deliberately deprived of medical care in order to increase pressure on them. For example, there are cases when activists suffering from chronic diseases were left without vital drugs.

For political prisoners, prison becomes a place of not only physical, but also psychological suppression. They are isolated from the rest, subjected to regular searches, deprived of correspondence and the possibility of calling loved ones. Refusal to "cooperate" with the administration or demonstration of a principled position is punished even more harshly. Prisoners are sent to punishment cells, where the temperature can be just above freezing, and they have to sleep on the bare floor - the guards give out mattresses only for the night, and for the slightest violations they take them away.

A special place is occupied by "pressing huts" - cells where prisoners are systematically abused. For political prisoners, this is often an attempt

to force false confessions or break their will. There are no rules here, only arbitrariness and fear.

The forced labour system is also worth mentioning. Formally, labor in Russian colonies is part of the "correctional program." In fact, it is a system of exploitation in which prisoners often work 12-14 hours a day for nominal money. Workplaces are often not properly equipped, there is no protective equipment, safety and sanitation standards are violated.

Political prisoners are often given the hardest tasks, discriminated against in the distribution of labor, and face penalties for refusing to work or for "not working hard enough." Work becomes another tool of pressure, and refusal becomes a reason for solitary confinement or worsening of conditions of detention.

WHY SHOULD THE INTERNATIONAL LEFT CARE ABOUT THIS?

The situation in Russian prisons is not just an internal affair of the country. It reflects the global trend towards the degradation of human rights and the tightening of political control. Political prisoners fighting for freedom, equality and democracy suffer in unacceptable conditions.

Left-wing activists in different countries, who value their rights and freedoms, must understand that indifference to this problem means tacit acceptance of repression. The struggle for the rights of political prisoners in Russia is a struggle for the leftist values of freedom and solidarity, which should not have any state borders.

Many Russian activists, especially the left, are facing additional injustice even after their release. Despite the repression they have endured, their communist or anarchist beliefs often become a barrier to obtaining political asylum in Europe or beyond. The Western bureaucracy often perceives them in a biased way, sees them as an

ideological threat rather than a struggle for rights and social justice, and refuses to support them.

As a result, those who opposed the right-wing capitalist dictatorship find themselves in a hopeless situation. Many are forced to remain in Russia under close surveillance and strict control of the special services, constantly risking to end up behind bars again. This is not just ignoring their suffering – it is acquiescence or powerlessness in the face of the repression they have endured. Thus, their freedom often turns into an illusion. The fight for justice continues outside the prison walls, but in conditions of no less pressure and danger.

VOICES FROM BEHIND PRISON BARS

Left-wing political prisoners have one thing in common: the desire to create a world where oppression, injustice and corruption no longer have a place. But these dreams come at a high price in today's Russia. The repressive machine turns beliefs and activism into crimes. These people were victims of show trials, fictitious charges and inhumane treatment.

Each biography that you will find in this book is a portrait of a person whose life was devoted to the struggle for the public good. Some organized strikes in factories to defend workers' rights. Others created independent media, exposing corruption and arbitrariness. Some others were engaged in educational activities, inspiring people in solidarity and resistance to injustice. Their paths were different, but the end was the same - a harsh sentence, from which there is no protection in the conditions of a punitive system.

We will also show the human side of these people: who they were before their arrest, how they lived, whom they loved and what they dreamed of. After all, behind every figure of statistics there is a person with his weaknesses, hopes and pain.

TYUMEN CASE

The criminal prosecution of six anarchists and anti-fascists from Tyumen, Surgut and Yekaterinburg, which began in August 2022, attracted the attention of the public and human rights activists. They are accused of creating a terrorist community (Article 205.4 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation) and preparing for terrorist acts (Article 30, Part 1; Article 205, Part 2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).

According to the investigation, the defendants allegedly planned to blow up military registration and enlistment offices, police departments and sabotage on the railway tracks along which Russian military equipment was sent to Ukraine. These charges became the basis for the initiation of a criminal case in which they faced torture, which caused widespread condemnation both inside and outside Russia.

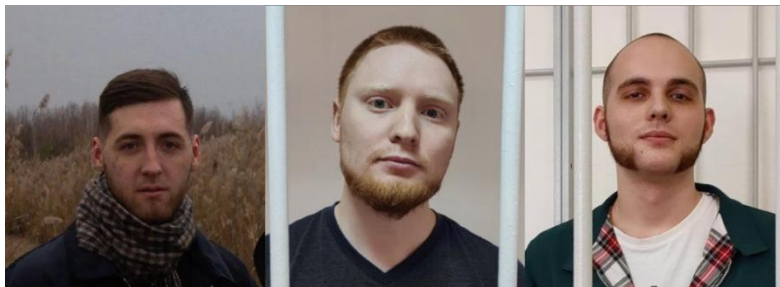
DEFENDANTS IN THE CASE

Nikita Oleynik. From childhood he showed interest in sports, especially in boxing, which occupied an important place in his life. Nikita also sought knowledge in medicine, studied to be a surgeon and worked in various professions: a shift worker, a nurse, a taxi driver and a courier. From the age of 16, he began to take an interest in anarchism, his ideals focused on individual freedom and resistance to social and political oppression. In March 2021, Nikita, together with Roman Paklin, founded the “Burevestnik” public libertarian library in Surgut, which has become an important cultural and educational project aimed at spreading anarchist ideas.

Roman Paklin. He was born and raised in Surgut, served in the railway troops, and after demobilization worked as a mechanical technician in the large oil company Surgutneftegaz. From a very young age, Roman showed an interest in left-wing ideas and punk culture, which determined his worldview. The punk movement became for him not only music, but also a philosophy of resistance to social injustice. His views were deeply anarchist, and he was active in protests against

injustice and corruption. Together with Nikita Oleynik, Roman became one of the founders of the public libertarian library "Burevestnik", which became an important base for the exchange of ideas and the training of new activists in Surgut.

Deniz Aydin. He studied to be a locomotive driver and was actively interested in music. He was a member of the hardcore band "Siberian Brigade", which in its essence was not just a musical project, but an environment for the spread of anti-fascist views. Deniz worked as a handyman at weddings and in various small jobs, which helped him maintain his independence. His views were aimed at combating inequality and social injustice, as well as protecting the rights of marginalized groups. In his musical career and social activism, he set himself the goal of using art as a tool for resistance and change in society.



Defendants in the Tyumen case. From left to right: Nikita Oleynik, Roman Paklin, Deniz Aydin.

Kirill Brik. He was engaged in the hull works, worked in the workshop with his father. He was also part of a music group where he played with Deniz Aydin and actively shared his anti-fascist views through his work.

Yuri Neznamov. He lived in Yekaterinburg, was a freelancer in the field of 3D modeling, working on various projects in the field of design and technology. Yuri was an adherent of a healthy lifestyle, was actively fond of Thai boxing, monitored his physical condition and maintained moral and physical discipline. His hobbies and profession allowed him to look at the world through the prism of innovation and progress,

which was also manifested in his political activism. Yuri was a supporter of anarchist ideas and sought to create a society free from all forms of oppression and inequality.

Danil Chertykov. He worked as a veterinarian, his professional skills were related to the care of animals and their health. But, in addition to his work, Danil actively supported the ideas of social justice and was a convinced anarchist. Like the rest of the group, he was an opponent of state power, which supports only the interests of the elites and corporate structures, ignoring the needs of the majority.

Despite the torture and threats they endured after their detention, they remain true to their ideals, and their struggle continues even in the face of brutal persecution.



Defendants in the Tyumen case. From left to right: Kirill Brik, Yuri Neznamov, Danil Chertykov. The inscription on Chertykov's clothes reads: "Do you live in a superpower? Supremely hold on!"

BACKGROUND

On the evening of August 30, 2022, in the forest on the outskirts of Tyumen, police officers detained Deniz Aydin and Kirill Brik. According to the police, Tyumen residents planned to test an improvised explosive mixture in a deserted place. After the arrest, Aydin and Brik were taken to the building of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, where both were tortured in order to obtain confessions: according to the prosecution,

they planned to blow up FSB (*Federal Security Service, Russian special service*) buildings and railway tracks.

The next day, in the evening, August 31, Danil Chertykov and Yuri Neznamov were detained in Yekaterinburg, and Nikita Oleynik was detained in Surgut. On September 1, Roman Paklin was detained at his workplace in Surgut. After the searches, they were all taken to Tyumen. In early September, all the defendants were taken into custody in pre-trial detention center-1 in Tyumen.

Kirill Brik and Deniz Aydin were charged under the article "Manufacture and storage of improvised explosives" (Part 2 of Article 223.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation). Nikita Oleynik, Danila Chertykov, Yuri Neznamov and Roman Paklin were charged under the article "Organization of a terrorist community and participation in it" (Article 205.4 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation). In July 2023, Brik and Aydin were also additionally charged under Article 205.4 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE

After the arrest, all the defendants stated that they were tortured during detention and interrogation. Their lawyers sent statements to the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation on the fact of the use of violence, but the department refused to initiate a criminal case against law enforcement officers involved in torture.

After the torture, Roman Paklin's health deteriorated — his arm was paralyzed, heart pain and high blood pressure appeared, but medical care began to be provided to him untimely — only at the end of December 2022. Prior to this, medical workers of pre-trial detention center-1 in Tyumen and pre-trial detention center-2 in Zavodoukovsk, where Paklin was temporarily stayed, ignored his complaints about his deteriorating state of health.

On April 5, 2023, Paklin was sent to pre-trial detention center-1 in Yekaterinburg for a psychiatric examination, then to the Regional Psychiatric Hospital in Yekaterinburg.

On August 1, after returning to the pre-trial detention center-1 in Tyumen, Roman Paklin was prescribed psychiatric treatment. He is currently undergoing treatment at the Lebedev Regional Psychiatric Hospital in the village of Lebedevka, Tyumen Region.

All six defendants are in custody. In September 2023, Kirill Brik entered into a pre-trial agreement and testified against Nikita Oleynik, which, according to many, happened under pressure. In May 2024, Brik was sentenced to eight years in high security prison. It should be emphasized that, despite the awareness of all possible risks, Kirill Brik decided to testify based on personal motives and a desire for his own relief. It was thanks to his testimony that this case was qualified as a terrorist case, which led to an increase in the number of charges and subsequent persecution of other activists who became victims of politically motivated charges.

NETWORK CASE (DELO SETI)

The tragic story of a group of young people who were accused of creating a terrorist community. This led to arrests, torture and long prison terms.

DEFENDANTS IN THE CASE

Dmitry Pchelintsev. He was born in Penza in the family of a doctor and a civil engineer. The family often moved, which allowed him to see different sides of life and society from an early age. Dmitry graduated from school in Izhevsk, after which he lived with his parents in Moscow for some time. Later he returned to Penza and enrolled to the Faculty of Computer Engineering of Penza State University.

His mother, Svetlana Pchelintseva, a cardiologist at a Moscow hospital, remembers her son with warmth and sad irony:

"As a 'terrorist', he would not have been able to study at the Timiryazev Academy, where there were images of dismembered animals," she says. "He's a vegan. He said that one life should not exist at the expense of killing another."

From an early age, Dmitry adhered to strict moral principles, which manifested themselves in his care for nature, animals and people. His beliefs were based on the ideas of non-violence and respect for all forms of life.

These qualities of Dmitry, his adherence to principles and desire for justice, make his fate within the framework of the "Network Case" especially bitter. Instead of recognizing his moral fortitude and intellectual potential, the state unleashed a repressive apparatus on him, accusing him of what he could never have done based on his convictions.

Ilya Shakursky. He was born and raised in the working-class village of Mokshan, located 30 kilometers from Penza. This small village with a population of about 10 thousand people stands on the federal highway M-5 "Ural", leading to Moscow. Life in Mokshan is centered around several local enterprises — an asphalt plant, a greenhouse complex, a bakery, a butter factory and two confectionery factories. However, despite the availability of work, residents often face low wages.

"The average salary here is from 8 to 12 thousand rubles [~ from 80 to 120 euros - editor's note]," says Elena Bogatova, Ilya's mother. "But Ilya dreamed of returning to his native village after studying at the institute and working as a teacher at his school. We never had time to discuss how he would live here."

Ilya was known for his active social position, participated in the organization of local protests and actions aimed at protecting the rights of workers and countering fascism.

At the moment of his arrest, Ilya was a third-year student at the Faculty of Physical and Mathematical Sciences of Penza State University. He planned to return to his native Moksha, and then enter a master's program to continue his education. He dreamed of teaching at his native school in his village.

His arrest and subsequent indictment as part of the Network Case ruined these plans.

Andrey Chernov. He was born into a large family in the city of Kamenka, located just 70 kilometers from Penza. Kamenka is a small city with a population of about 35 thousand people, where young people leave every year in search of better opportunities in Penza or large cities. There is only one large employer left in the city - the Sucden sugar factory, owned by a French company. Other enterprises, such as the once famous Belinskselmash plant, have long been on the verge of closure, and the local bakery, meat processing plant and Stroydetal plant have long gone bankrupt.

Andrei's mother, Tatyana Chernova, worked as a kindergarten teacher for many years, but in 1996 she was laid off and, like many others, began to trade in the market.

"I also ended up as a salesperson at the market in those years with Tatiana," recalls a friend of the Chernov family, Natalia Skvortsova. "Life forced me: someone was able to cope, and someone was not. But the Chernovs were real hard workers who never gave up. Whatever the weather was - frost, blizzard - at four in the morning they got up and went to the market."

The Chernov family has always lived by work and honestly earned a living. Andrey grew up in these conditions, appreciating his work and paying tribute to the diligence of his parents, who, despite all the difficulties, continued to fight for a better future for their children.

Vasily Kuksov. He was born and raised in the small town of Serdobsk, located 100 kilometers from Penza. The city with a population of about 30 thousand people was once an industrial center, famous for its factories, but today its economic situation leaves much to be desired. Most of the enterprises have closed, and only food processing plants and furniture production continue to operate.

"Plants are dying. Of the former plants, only the machine-building plant survives. The watch factory was closed, as well as the tube factory. Even the bakery was closed. Only shops and pharmacies remained - even the market was gone," complain the neighbors of the Kuksov family, Maria Timofeeva and Nina Petrova.

Serdobsk, like many similar cities, has become a place from which young people tend to leave in search of a better life. Vasily, however, did not dream of a big city. He lived a simple life in his hometown.

Mikhail Kulkov. He was born in a family that valued travel and discovery. He was the older of two brothers. From a very early age, Mikhail began to explore the world: his first steps were taken at the foot of Mamayev Kurgan in Volgograd, when he was barely one year old.

Mikhail's mother, Elena Samonina, always supported him, despite all the difficulties. She did not miss a single court hearing in the Network case, continuing to fight for her son. In one of the interviews, Elena told how her son grew up, what he was fond of and what he dreamed of. Mikhail was a man who was interested in many aspects of life, and, like many of his peers, he worried and searched for his own path. But his life changed from the moment he became embroiled in a drug problem, which was the beginning of his arrest in the Network case.

Mikhail Kulkov, despite his involvement in drug trafficking – which we strictly condemn – was detained in the “Network” case not for this, but for his political beliefs. He was an active anti-fascist and social activist, which was the reason for his persecution. We consider him a political prisoner because his arrest and conviction are directly related to his political views and activities, and not to personal transgressions.

It is important to understand that his detention and trial is part of a wider persecution of people who disagree with the current government, and we are sure that Mikhail has become a victim of a political case.

Maxim Invankin. He was born in the village of Bessonovka, not far from Penza, in the family of Tatyana and Sergey Ivankin. The family lived in a private house, and from childhood Maxim showed respect for his elders and avoided conflicts with neighbors. Like Mikhail Kulkov, he graduated from the Penza College of Trade and Economics with a degree in cook-technologist.

Maxim was a man of diverse interests, and his friends always spoke of him as a person who was passionate about ideas and social action. He loved literature, was an activist in college, was fond of music and often participated in KVN (*joke contest team*). His passion for travel and

adventure manifested itself in the fact that, like Mikhail, he hitchhiked more than once, preferring abandoned forests and fields. But his life was not limited to studies and hobbies. Maxim worked in various fields - from a cook in a restaurant to a handyman and was also a counselor in a children's camp and decorated for holidays by drawing T-shirts.



Defendants in the "Network" case.

From left to right: Arman Sagynbaev, Vasily Kuksov, Mikhail Kulkov, Andrey Chernov, Dmitry Pchelintsev, Ilya Shakursky, Maxim Ivankin.

The inscription on Ivankin's clothes reads: "Your electric shock will not kill our ideas."

Arman Sagynbaev. He was born in Novosibirsk and from childhood showed curiosity and creativity. His mother, Elena Strigina, recalls that the name for her son was chosen by his father. "Arman" means "dream" in Kazakh.

Arman grew up as a friendly and open child, he had a warm, almost friendly relationship with his mother. He became creative early: he played the accordion and piano and also made various crafts with his own hands.

When a computer appeared in the house, five-year-old Arman immediately became interested in the new technology. At the age of 10, he wrote his first computer game - a ball bouncing off walls. And he

also had his own small greenhouse on the balcony, where he grew greens, salads, cucumbers and even lemons.

It is important to note that neither we nor other human rights communities are currently providing support to Arman Sagynbaev in connection with the facts, including cases of sexualized violence and conscious HIV infection. However, despite this, we recognize him as a political prisoner based on internationally recognized human rights conventions and common criteria. His persecution is linked to his political beliefs, and we see his case as part of an overall repressive policy against dissent.

Viktor Filinkov. Born in Petropavlovsk in northern Kazakhstan, he developed a passion for technology from an early age, from radio-controlled robots to a passion for computers and programming. His mother, Natalia Filinkova, recalls that her son was an excellent student and always won the awards for his academic achievements.

After graduating from school, Victor moved to Russia, entering the Omsk State University at the Faculty of Informatics and Computer Engineering. In his third year, he dropped out to work as a programmer, in which he achieved considerable success. He is a supporter of open source and a free Internet. He was active in the Linux community, often speaking at conferences and giving lectures on Internet security.

According to his friend, Yegor Drevlyanin, Viktor's arrest was a real shock for all his relatives. In Omsk, they did not discuss revolutions or violent actions. Instead, according to Egor, anarchist youth sought to create horizontal connections and communities. Victor, according to him, was not inclined to illegal actions and did not participate in any extremist manifestations, his hobbies did not include alcohol, smoking or drugs. He was tolerant and respected people with various addictions, which, according to Yegor, emphasized his humanity.

Victor's mother, despite the influence of the media, did not believe the accusations against her son, noting that it was "nonsense." The whole family was shocked, and Yegor gratefully noted how important the moment is when people can form an independent opinion and not succumb to propaganda.

Julian Boyarshinov. After the arrest of his son, his father, Nikolai Boyarshinov, every Friday goes to a one-person picket in the center of St. Petersburg in support of the defendants in the "Network" case. He made his first poster on May 9, 2018, to demonstrate on the Day of Victory over Fascism how those who oppose fascism are persecuted in Russia. Nikolai believes that his actions are a continuation of the family tradition of fighting injustice, which was rooted in their history.

Julian's parents gave him an unusual name, realizing that his life would not be easy with him. Since childhood, he has been a person who always found ways to keep himself busy, create and develop something. At the dacha, he built sand castles, created nests on birches. These creative impulses and desire for independence have always been an important part of his personality.

However, despite all the difficulties that he had to face in life, Julian remained true to his ideals. He was an anti-fascist and a fighter for justice, which was the reason for his persecution. Julian's family, despite the pain of loss and unfair accusation, continues to fight for the truth, hoping that his case and the deeds of others who have suffered for their beliefs will someday receive a fair assessment.

These young people were bound together by a common goal: to build a more just and free society. Their arrests and convictions have become a symbol of repression against activists and human rights defenders in Russia. Despite all the trials, they remain true to their ideals, inspiring others to fight for freedom and justice.

CHITA CASE

The criminal prosecution of anarchists and anti-fascists from Chita, accused of calling for extremist and terrorist activities, is an example of the brutal suppression of political activity, especially among young people. The reason for the detention was the application of anti-war graffiti, including the inscription "*Death to the regime*".

These symbols of protest against war and political repression have become the basis for charges under a number of articles, including 205.2 Part 2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation ("Public calls for terrorist activities"), 280 Part 2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation ("Public calls for extremist activities") and 214 Part 2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation ("Vandalism motivated by political hatred").

DEFENDANTS IN THE CASE

Aleksandr Snezhkov. Anti-fascist, he was sentenced to 6 years in prison.

Lyubov' Lizunova. The anarchist, who was a minor at the time of her detention, was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison. Despite her age, the authorities showed no leniency, bringing serious charges of extremism and terrorism against her for using graffiti as a form of protest.

Vladislav Vishnevsky. He was sentenced to 1.5 years of forced labor..



Defendants in the Chita case. Lyubov Lizunova and Alexander Snezhkov.

The sentences were handed down on April 25, 2024 by the 1st District Military Court at a visiting session in Chita. The prosecutor demanded 5 years in prison for Lizunova during the debate. The court also

dismissed the criminal case of Lizunova on charges of vandalism for graffiti due to the expiration of the statute of limitations for bringing minors to justice.

This criminal case is one of the most striking examples of the persecution of young people, including a minor activist, for their political beliefs. Such cases show how cruelly the Russian system can react to the slightest manifestation of political protest, especially from young people, and how quickly the lives of people who dare to express disagreement with state policy can be destroyed.

Recently, Snezhkov was charged with a new crime of “justifying terrorism.” The case emerged after a prisoner-provocateur was placed in his cell:

“As Alexander said during a meeting with lawyer Grigorieva N.M., in January of this year, when he was in SIZO-1 in Chita, a prisoner who collaborated with the administration was placed in his cell. He began asking the anarchist why he was in jail. Alexander told him about his case, and this conversation was recorded on a dictaphone. Based on this recording, the FSB opened a new criminal case,” Sasha’s support group recounts the gist of it.

Parents of anti-fascists Alexander Snezhkov and Lyuba Lizunova are outraged and shocked by the results of the trial of November 25. They face long prison sentences – years of living in unbearable conditions for actions that cannot be considered a crime.

From the example of their children, parents were convinced that the Russian state remains inhumane and uses the judicial system as a tool to suppress dissent. They witnessed the injustice and repressiveness of the Russian judicial system, which was clearly manifested in the fate of their children. Graffiti and a few reposts in a small telegram channel are not a reason to ruin human lives.

The support group of Snezhkov and Lizunova is not going to give up. We will continue to fight for our comrades: donations, lawyers' work, letters and public publicity. The state takes revenge, but we also respond with solidarity.

THE CASE OF THE "LEFT RESISTANCE"

The "Left Resistance" ("Levoye Soprotivleniye") was created in 2017 and united supporters of left-wing and opposition views, organized public actions and was active on social networks. Despite its modest scale, the movement attracted the attention of the authorities because of its open criticism of state policies.

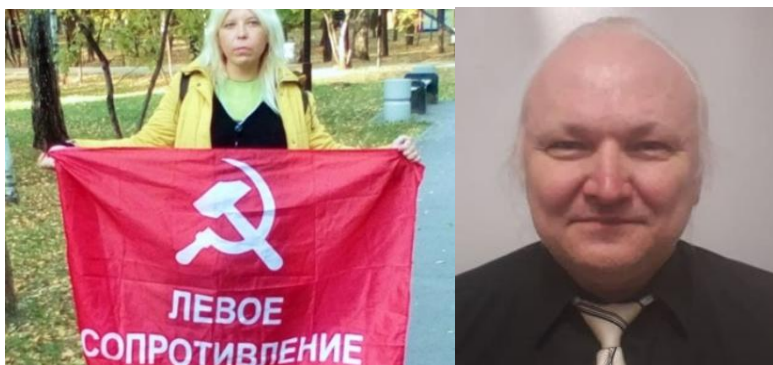
MAIN DEFENDANTS IN THE CASE

Darya Polyudova. The leader of the movement, who was repeatedly detained for participating in protests..

In December 2022, Polyudova was sentenced to nine years in prison on charges of creating an extremist community (Part 1 of Article 282.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).

Alyona Krylova. An activist who took part in the organization of actions. In December 2023, the court sentenced her to two years in prison.

Igor Kuznetsov. A journalist from Tomsk who covered the activities of the Left Resistance. In March 2024, he received three years of probation.



Daria Polyudova and Igor Kuznetsov. The sign on the flag means: The Left Resistance.

Sergey Kirsanov. A member of the movement sent for compulsory treatment in October 2023 by court decision.

Members of the movement were accused of creating and participating in an extremist community, as well as calling for extremist activities. As evidence, the investigation cited materials from social networks, which, in their opinion, contained "extremist content." The charges also concerned public actions and rallies organized by activists.

Human rights organisations such as the Memorial Human Rights Centre have recognised Daria Polyudova, Alena Krylova and Igor Kuznetsov as political prisoners. They emphasize that the persecution of activists is clearly politically motivated, aimed at suppressing civic activity and restricting freedom of speech.

THE CASE OF THE UFA MARXIST GROUP

The case of the Ufa Marxist group (Ufimskiy Marksistskiy Kruzhok) is a vivid example of how the state can use force and power against citizens engaged exclusively in theoretical and educational activities. In March 2022, a group of left-wing activists from Ufa came under attack from law enforcement agencies, accused of creating a terrorist community and preparing a violent seizure of power. This club was founded in 2016 by otolaryngologist Alexei Dmitriev.



Off-site meeting of the Ufa Marxist group, 2021. The sign on the flag in the middle means: Forward, for the Soviet motherland! The rally of Marxists and the Left.

Participants met weekly to discuss Marxist theory and political issues. The meetings were held at the Stalin Museum, and recordings of the discussions were posted on social media and YouTube, which attracted the attention of the authorities.

Educational activities aimed at understanding Marxist ideas and their application in the modern context were perceived as a threat to the stability of power.

DEFENDANTS IN THE CASE

Dmitriy Chuvilin. Deputy in the Kurultay of the Republic of Bashkortostan. An active politician whose beliefs have always been aimed at social justice, equality and workers' rights.



Defendants in the case of the Ufa Marxist group. From left to right: Pavel Matisov, Dmitry Chuvilin, Rinat Burkeev.

Pavel Matisov. He participated in the fighting in the "Luhansk People's Republic" in 2014. His combat experience and participation in the conflict in eastern Ukraine became part of the charges, despite the fact that his activities in Ufa were purely educational and theoretical.

Rinat Burkeev. An activist who has always sought to study and disseminate the ideas of Marxism, emphasizing the importance of socialist transformations.

Yuriy Efimov. A pensioner who devoted his entire life to the study of history, politics and social theory.

Alexey Dmitriev. The organizer of the group, an otolaryngologist, who was inspired by Marxist ideas and created a space for discussing topical social and political issues.

All these people, despite their different life paths and professions, united around one goal – the search for a theoretical basis for the fight against social injustice and capitalism. Their activities were exclusively peaceful, aimed at education, but the authorities perceived this as a threat.

At the end of March 2022, they were all arrested. The charges brought against them seem absurd: according to the investigation, the members of the group allegedly planned a violent seizure of power, attacks on law enforcement officers and military units, as well as the commission of terrorist acts. However, no evidence of guilt was presented, and the investigation looked fabricated, with clear signs of political repression.

In February 2024, court hearings began in Yekaterinburg, where the defendants denied all charges, stating that their activities were exclusively theoretical and educational in nature. The trial caused a wide public outcry, and it was accompanied by actions of support from human rights defenders and activists. Human rights organizations have expressed serious concern about the persecution of these people, pointing to possible violations of their rights and the politically motivated nature of the case. In May 2022, Rosfinmonitoring included all those involved in the list of terrorists and extremists, which also drew attention to the injustice against these people.



*Defendants in the case of the Ufa Marxist group.
From top to bottom:
Yuri Efimov, Alexey Dmitriev.*

The "Case of the Ufa Marxist group" not only reveals the scale of political repression in Russia, but also reminds us of how easy it is to become a victim of persecution for peaceful, intellectual search and discussion in a country where political opposition is perceived as a threat.

THE CASE OF THE KANSK TEENAGERS

In 2020, a story broke out in Kansk, Krasnoyarsk Territory, which became a symbol of the persecution of teenagers for their beliefs. Three anarchist schoolchildren - *Nikita Uvarov*, *Denis Mikhailenko* and *Bogdan Andreev* - were at the center of a criminal case that began with the posting of leaflets, and ended with accusations of terrorism.



Denis Mikhailenko

THE BEGINNING OF THE CASE

In June 2020, as fourteen-year-olds, Nikita, Denis and Bogdan distributed leaflets criticizing the state and supporting political prisoners on the building of the local FSB office. This symbolic act was the reason for their detention. The investigation stated that the teenagers planned to blow up the FSB building, were trained in the manufacture of explosive devices and discussed this in correspondence. As evidence, their actions in the Minecraft game were cited, where they allegedly built a virtual FSB building and planned to blow it up. This argument caused a resonance in society, becoming an example of the absurdity of the accusations.

SENTENCE

In February 2022, the court issued a verdict. Nikita Uvarov, who refused to admit guilt, received five years in prison in an educational colony for

"undergoing training for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activities." His friends, Denis and Bogdan, entered into a pre-trial agreement, pleaded guilty and received suspended sentences.

In October 2023, Nikita was transferred from an educational colony to a general regime colony for adults. This decision caused a new wave of indignation in society.



From left to right: Lawyer Vladimir Vasin, Nikita Uvarov and his mother outside the courthouse. February 7, 2022.

NIKITA UVAROV'S LAST WORD

At the trial, Nikita said the last word, in which he frankly spoke about his views and experiences:

"I was hurt by the fact that people are being repressed in my country, civil activists who wish the country well, who stand up for its well-being. I learned about this from the unofficial media, I believed in it. Now, unfortunately, I have experienced the despotism of unscrupulous employees of the system... <... >

I never wrote that I was planning and preparing to blow up anyone, because I did not plan anything and did not prepare anyone. And in the correspondence that was studied, we simply reflected on the topic: are the people there bad or good, and they can be somehow agitated, conveyed the information that they can be mistaken, that anarchists are bad. That's what I thought, and that's why I proposed to put leaflets about anarchists on the FSB building <... >

PUBLIC OUTCRY

The case of the Kansk pupils became a high-profile example of political repression. Human rights activists condemned the actions of the investigation and the court, calling the case far-fetched and the accusations unfair.

The public, including human rights organizations, lawyers and journalists, condemned the harshness of the punishment and the methods of investigation. The case raised questions about the limits of justice, the role of the state in educating young people, and the fate of those who dare to express their views openly.

THE STORY OF AZAT MIFTAKHOV

The fate of Azat Miftakhov, a talented mathematician, graduate student of the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics of Moscow State University and a convinced anarchist, has become one of the most vivid illustrations of political repression in modern Russia.

THE BEGINNING OF THE PERSECUTION

On February 1, 2019, Azat Miftakhov was detained on suspicion of manufacturing explosives. During interrogations, he claimed that he had been tortured to force him to confess. The charges of making explosives were soon dropped, but Azat was not released: he was charged with hooliganism for participating in the attack on the office of the United Russia party in Moscow.

The accusation was built on shaky foundations and dubious testimony. Nevertheless, in January 2021, the Golovinsky District Court of Moscow sentenced Miftakhov to six years in prison in a general regime colony. His lawyers appealed, but they only slightly softened the verdict: in April 2022, the sentence was reduced by three months.



Azat Miftakhov

THE NEW ROUND OF REPRESSION

On September 4, 2023, Azat was supposed to be released. However, instead of meeting with his loved ones, a new arrest awaited him. This time, a case was opened against him for justifying terrorism. The investigation claimed that Miftakhov, while in the colony, allegedly spoke favorably about Mikhail Zhlobitsky, who in 2018 carried out an explosion in the FSB department in Arkhangelsk.

On March 28, 2024, the Central District Military Court in Yekaterinburg sentenced Miftakhov to four years in prison, the first two and a half years in a strict prison. This sentence turned out to be even harsher than the prosecution requested.

REPRESSION INSIDE THE PRISON

During his imprisonment, Azat faced additional discrimination. In 2023, he publicly declared his bisexuality, which made him even more vulnerable in the prison system, where homophobia and stereotypes of

the criminal subculture are entrenched. He was forbidden to communicate with other prisoners, shake hands or sit at the same table with them. These prohibitions were aimed at complete isolation, but they only emphasized the resilience and courage of Miftakhov, who did not back down from his convictions.

VOICES OF SUPPORT

The story of Azat Miftakhov did not leave indifferent either his colleagues or human rights activists. Scientists around the world signed petitions demanding his release. Human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, recognized him as a political prisoner. They emphasize that the Miftakhov case is not just a trial, it is an attack on freedom of thought and belief.

Moreover, Azat repeatedly fought for his rights, even in conditions of strict imprisonment. He used methods of protest such as hunger strikes, self-mutilation, and even set fire to his cell. These radical actions were his way of drawing attention to the systematic violations of his rights and ill-treatment. His every step was a challenge to the system, which was trying to break his will.

Azat Miftakhov remains in prison, but his name resounds far beyond the prison walls. Solidarity actions are dedicated to him, human rights defenders and activists talk about him. Miftakhov's story is a reminder that even in the darkest corners of the system, there is a place for light.

THE STORY OF BORIS KAGARLITSKY

Boris Kagarlitsky, a well-known sociologist, political scientist and publicist with leftist views, became one of the most striking examples of repression for freedom of speech and beliefs in modern Russia. His life is a path of struggle for social justice, human rights and open expression of political views, which repeatedly led him to clashes with the state.

Even in his student years, Boris was interested in Marxist ideas and literature that was banned at that time, especially the works of Herbert Marcuse. Since 1977, he has been a left-wing dissident, participating in the publication of samizdat magazines "Varianty", "Left Turn" (later "Socialism and the Future").

In 1979, he became a candidate for membership in the CPSU. In 1980, after passing the state exam with flying colors, he was interrogated by the KGB and expelled from GITIS and candidate party members "for antisocial activities." Later he worked as a postman.

In April 1982, he was arrested in the "Case of Young Socialists" and spent a little over a year in Lefortovo Prison on charges of anti-Soviet propaganda. He spent more than a year in prison, was released but deprived of the right to continue his education.

In the post-Soviet era, Kagarlitsky continued to fight for human rights and criticize the government. He became the author of numerous books on politics, sociology and history, collaborated with The Moscow Times, Novaya Gazeta, Vek and others.

His works, including "Marxism: Not Recommended for Study" (*Marksizm: Ne rekomendovano k obucheniyyu*), "Between Class and Discourse" (*"Mezhdu klassom i diskursom"*), "The Long Retreat" (*"Dolgoye otstupleniye"*) and others, have generated great interest both in Russia and abroad. Kagarlitsky gained particular popularity thanks to the media project "Rabkor" that he created, on the pages of which he analyzed social and political processes, not hesitating to criticize the authorities.

THE CASE OF "EXPLOSIVE CONGRATULATIONS"

In October 2022, Boris Kagarlitsky published a video titled "Explosive congratulations to Mostik (*Bridge*) the cat". In it, he discussed the events related to the explosion on the Crimean bridge. The video aroused the interest of law enforcement agencies after the appeal of the deputy of the Council of Ukhta of the Komi Republic, Leonid Krasnoperov, who demanded a legal assessment of the video.

In the summer of 2023, the FSB of Russia opened a criminal case against Kagarlitsky under Part 2 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (public justification of terrorism). The sociologist was detained and transferred to Syktyvkar, where he was in custody awaiting trial.



Boris Kagarlitsky

SENTENCES AND PUBLIC REACTION

In December 2023, the Supreme Court of the Komi Republic found Kagarlitsky guilty. He was sentenced to a fine of 609 thousand rubles and banned from administering Internet resources for two years. The prosecutor's office, however, considered the sentence too lenient and appealed.

In February 2024, the Military Court of Appeal toughened the sentence: Kagarlitsky was sentenced to five years in prison in a general regime colony. He was taken into custody right in the courtroom.

This verdict caused a wide resonance in scientific and human rights circles. Colleagues and public figures said that Kagarlitsky was persecuted solely for his political views and statements. In October 2023, Radhika Desai, a professor at the University of Manitoba, handed over to Vladimir Putin an appeal on the Kagarlitsky case at the Valdai Forum. Although the president promised to consider the document in order to take it into account, the toughening of the sentence in February 2024 demonstrated the opposite. Perhaps the toughening of the sentence is just a consequence of the fact that the president nevertheless considered the document.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The case of Boris Kagarlitsky is not only an example of the struggle for one's beliefs, but also a reflection of how the state machine tries to suppress any dissent. His fate remains in the spotlight of the public, human rights organizations and international colleagues. For many, Kagarlitsky has become a symbol of resilience in the face of political pressure, and his work continues to inspire those who believe in the need for social change.

“ANTIFA UNITED” CASE

The Antifa United case is a prime example of the persecution of activists in Russia for their involvement in anti-fascist activities. At the center of the investigation was ***Bogdan Yakimenko***, founder of the Antifa United clothing brand, who was detained on June 5, 2024 in Rostov-on-Don. On the same day, seven people allegedly associated with this movement were arrested in Moscow. There are allegations of torture, including the use of electric shocks.

According to the Investigative Committee, the members of the group, starting from June 20, 2020, created an extremist organization in order to prepare and commit crimes of an extremist nature in the Moscow region.

The charges relate to the involvement of minors in the activities of the organization, and the planning of crimes motivated by hatred of law enforcement officers. This case is of concern to human rights organizations, which consider the persecution of Antifa United members to be politically motivated and linked to a broader trend of repression against activists and youth movements in Russia.



Bogdan Yakimenko and examples of the clothing brand "Antifa United".

THE CASE OF ALEXEY ROZHKOV

Alexey Rozhkov is a 25-year-old guy from the small town of Berezovsky, in the Sverdlovsk region. Before the start of the war with Ukraine, he lived an ordinary life: he worked as a sales assistant in a store and was fond of playing the bass guitar.

When Russia unleashed a war in February 2022, Alexei could not remain silent. In a fit of protest, by throwing Molotov cocktails through the windows of the military registration and enlistment office in his hometown, he expressed his disagreement with the aggression and violence that has taken over his country. There was



Alexey Rozhkov

a watchman inside the military registration and enlistment office, but she remained unharmed.

Detained, he was placed in a pre-trial detention center. Initially, the charge was attempted murder, but later it was reclassified as intentional destruction of someone else's property, thanks to which he was placed under house arrest. However, not only law enforcement agencies, but also his own fears forced Alexei to leave the country. He left for Kyrgyzstan, fearing that the charges would become even more severe.

But his fate was not peacefully resolved. In June 2023, despite the lack of official extradition procedures, he was kidnapped without any legal grounds and taken to Russia. Alexei spoke about the torture he endured at the hands of the FSB. All this is only a small part of his torment.

In December 2023, he was charged with new charges for an interview in which he openly criticized the Russian army and its actions in Ukraine. In May 2024, the trial began, and Alexei faces up to 22.5 years in prison.

Alexei's case attracted the attention of human rights organizations and the public. Support, fundraising for lawyers, and legal aid are all needed to protect him from the political persecution.

THE CASE OF RUSLAN USHAKOV

Ruslan Ushakov is an anarchist, a Circassian by origin. Not only did he condemn repression and war, but he also promoted values such as veganism and humanism, which are often marginalized.

But like many who choose to express their views openly in Russia, Ruslan has become a target for the authorities. For comments left on his channel, he was accused of spreading "fakes" about the Russian army, rehabilitating Nazism, justifying terrorism and inciting hatred.



Ruslan Ushakov

This set of charges, typical of those who dare to protest against state policy, was the basis for his arrest.

Ruslan's detention was accompanied by severe torture, according to him, with the use of electric shocks, which was further evidence of the horrors of political persecution in the country. In July 2023, the Second Western District Military Court sentenced him to 8 years in a general regime colony. This sentence was not just a punishment for one person, but a landmark moment when the scale of pressure on everyone who dares to speak the truth became apparent.

Ruslan's story is not just a personal tragedy. This is a reflection of a broader phenomenon in which human rights defenders, activists and ordinary people who dare to object are targeted by reprisals. Ruslan Ushakov is one of the many people whose fates are tragically intertwined with the Russian political regime, and despite the trials and prisons, his voice continues to sound as a symbol of the struggle for freedom.

THE CASE OF SAVELIY FROLOV

Saveliy Frolov is an anti-fascist and anarchist who is at the center of one of Russia's most controversial and disturbing cases. He was charged under the article on high treason for "preparing to go over to the side of the enemy." This is one of the first cases when the activist is accused

of allegedly trying to join an armed group fighting on the side of Ukraine, because of which he was sentenced to 9 years of strict regime prison.



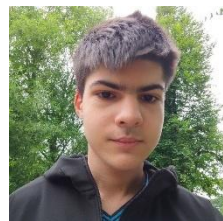
Savely Frolov

In the fall of 2023, Savely, who protested against Russia's military aggression, tried to leave for Georgia, but was detained and placed in a pre-trial detention center. Investigative authorities claim that his goal was to cross the border of Ukraine and join the so-called "Legion of Freedom of Russia" - an armed group fighting on the side of Ukraine. However, no evidence of his intentions was presented in the case, including tickets, visas or other evidence of his plans.

Savely allegedly bought camouflage pants and shoes that could be used in hostilities, which in no way can confirm his connection with the armed conflict. In October 2023, a court in Vladikavkaz found him guilty and sentenced him to six years in prison in a maximum security colony and a fine of 100 thousand rubles.

THE CASE OF GAGIK GRIGORYAN

Gagik Grigoryan is an 18-year-old left-wing activist from Kursk, a prominent representative of the youth movement for socialist ideals. He is a member of the Russian Social Democratic Youth Union and a member of the Left Socialist Action.



Gagik Grigoryan

Gagik adheres to socialist views, actively advocates social justice and equality. His political activism and desire to change the existing system made him a target for repression by the authorities.

In the fall of 2023, Gagik Grigoryan disappeared after a visit by the security forces. His name soon appeared on the list of "terrorists and extremists", and in October of the same year, according to information, he was transferred to Moscow, where the Lefortovo court extended his arrest. This happened in complete secrecy, which raises additional concerns about the legality and openness of the process.

Grigoryan was accused under articles on the preparation of a terrorist attack by a group of people and the possession of explosives as part of an organized group. In a letter from the FIZO, he said that he was charged with preparing the murder of a lieutenant colonel of the Russian army, which raises great doubts about the real motives for the prosecution and the possible fabrication of the case. At the moment, the situation around Gagik remains closed, and the lack of transparency in the investigation increases suspicions about the political background of his arrest.

On January 29, 2025, the Second Western District Military Court sentenced Gagik to 7 years in prison. The persecution of a young activist for justice becomes an example of how the authorities are using the judicial system to suppress political activism and control young people who are fighting for a more just society.

THE CASE OF VLADIMIR TIMOFEEV

Vladimir Vladimirovich Timofeev is a communist activist from Irkutsk, a veteran of the Afghan and Chechen wars, and the leader of the opposition organization Narodnaya Volya (*People's will*). This is a man with a difficult fate, who survived the horrors of wars and chose the path of struggle for justice and the rights of citizens.



Vladimir Timofeev

In April 2022, after one of the military strikes by Ukrainian aviation on an oil depot in the Belgorod region, Vladimir published a post on his telegram channel "Baikal Partisan". He expressed admiration for the skill of Ukrainian pilots, which, in his opinion, was an example of high professionalism. This opinion was the reason for his persecution, because in Russia, statements that can be perceived as criticism of the government's actions, especially in conditions of war, can turn into a criminal case.

On November 28, 2022, Vladimir was detained in Irkutsk. His house was searched, equipment was seized, and bank accounts were blocked. About 15 special forces members were sent to detain him, which was due to Vladimir's combat experience. First, he was placed under house arrest, but later, in December 2022, the court changed the measure of restraint, sending him to a pre-trial detention center, motivating this

by a violation of the conditions of house arrest. On April 25, 2023, a few months later, the First Eastern District Military Court found Vladimir Timofeev guilty of justifying terrorism (Part 2 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation) and spreading "fakes" about the Russian army (Part 1 of Article 207.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation). He was sentenced to three years in prison. It is noteworthy that the prosecutor requested two years of probation, referring to the military merits and awards of the accused, but the court, despite this, decided on a real term.

Timofeev has always adhered to leftist, socialist beliefs, advocated social justice, workers' rights and actively criticized the Russian government, especially its military intervention in Ukraine. He continues to defend his position and fight against what he considers unfair. His persecution has become a vivid example of how in Russia they punish for expressing their own opinions, for criticizing the authorities, especially in conditions of war.

Vladimir Timofeev continues to serve his sentence, human rights activists consider his prosecution an attempt to intimidate opponents of the war, a violation of the right to freedom of speech and a fair trial. His case reminds us how easy it is to be persecuted for truth and independence in authoritarian regimes.

THE CASE OF FELIX ELISEEV

Felix Viktorovich Eliseev is a Russian anti-fascist, head of the Telegram channels "She fell apart" ("*Ona razvalilas*") and " Kolkhoz madness" ("*Kalkhozhnoye Bezumiye*"). He bravely spoke out against Russian military policy and openly expressed solidarity with Ukraine, for which he found himself at the center of brutal repressive measures.

In December 2022, Felix was detained and sent to a pre-trial detention center on charges of "public justification of terrorism" (Part 2 of Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation) because of his anti-war publications. This was only the first blow. In April 2023, a second case was opened against him under the same article: the reason was a statement in support of a strike on an oil depot in Belgorod. And in September 2023, the repression reached its climax - he was accused of high treason (Article 275 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation). The investigation stated that Eliseev allegedly transferred cryptocurrency to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine.



Felix Eliseev

December 2023 was the tragic finale of this spectacle of repression. The Second Western District Military Court in Moscow sentenced Eliseev to 14 years in a maximum security colony and a fine of 100 thousand rubles. These accusations are only a pretext for suppressing his voice, which dared to speak out against war and violence.

Felix Eliseev has always stood for truth and justice. His left-wing anti-fascist views and unapologetic criticism of aggression made him a target for a system that does not tolerate dissent.

Behind the prison bars, Eliseev faced inhuman conditions: humidity, fungus, mold in the cell, lack of medical care. His health has suffered, but the authorities remain deaf to his suffering.

THE CASE OF ANTON ORLOV

Anton Orlov is a man who has dedicated himself to protecting the rights of medical workers and fighting for justice. As the coordinator of the Bashkir regional branch of the Trade Union "Action" and the deputy general director of Nefte-Service LLC, he became the voice of those who had remained in the shadows for too long. Orlov organized actions in support of doctors, including the "Italian strike"¹ of ambulance workers in Ishimbay, seeking better working conditions and higher wages.

But his active public activities did not go unnoticed. First, a case of fraud on an especially large scale was initiated against him. In September 2022, the Sovetsky District Court of Ufa sentenced Orlov to 6.5 years in prison and a fine of 250 thousand rubles. The accusation concerned the alleged embezzlement of funds in the supply of hydrocarbons. Despite the mitigation of the sentence by the Supreme Court of Bashkiria, which reduced the sentence to 6 years and 3 months and canceled the fine, the prosecution did not end there.

In June 2024, a new blow followed. Orlov was accused of embezzling 55 million rubles from the accounts of the company where he worked and was sentenced to 9.5 years in prison. The total term, considering the earlier sentence, was the same 9.5 years.

These accusations raise many questions. The evidence of Orlov's guilt remains extremely doubtful, and many are sure that the case against him is not related to economic crimes, but to his trade union and social

¹ A form of protest along with a strike and sabotage, in which the employees of the enterprise strictly comply with their duties and rules, not deviating from them or going beyond them.



Anton Orlov

activities. Orlov became an inconvenient man who openly challenged a system that ignored workers' rights.

Orlov's colleagues, friends and lawyers do not give up. They claim that his case is an attempt to intimidate those who are fighting for justice.

THE CASE OF YURI MIKHEEV

Yuri Mikheev, an 18-year-old anti-fascist and activist, was at the center of one of the most high-profile cases of late 2023. The young man was detained in November, accused of preparing sabotage at a military facility in the Dmitrovsky district of the Moscow region. The investigation claims that he allegedly acted on the instructions of the Ukrainian special services in order to undermine Russia's defense capability.

Together with Mikheev, brothers Matvey and Timofey Melnikov were arrested, who were also charged with preparing sabotage, high treason and participation in the terrorist organization "Legion "Freedom of Russia". According to the investigation, they entered the territory of

the military unit, planning to set fire to military equipment using flammable liquids.



Yuri Mikheev

However, behind the high-profile accusations hides a lack of clear evidence. Mikheev is charged with attempted sabotage by a group of persons (Part 1 of Article 30 and paragraphs "a" and "c" of Part 2 of Article 281 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation), which threatens up to 10 years in prison. Despite this, the case materials remain vague, and the actions of the accused, according to human rights activists, look more like political repression than a real threat to security.

The investigation went further, conducting searches at the homes of Mikheev's acquaintances and summoning them for interrogations, which caused a wave of protest among activists. Many are sure that the case has become a tool of intimidation for those who dare to criticize the authorities and oppose the war.

The case of Yuri Mikheev attracted the attention of human rights organizations, which openly declare the political background of the accusations. They point to his anti-fascist activities, participation in protests and public criticism of the Russian authorities as the real reasons for the persecution.

Now Yuri Mikheev is under arrest, and the trial continues.

THE CASE OF MAXIM SMYSHLYAEV

Maxim Nikolayevich Smyshlyaev is a Russian activist and student with left-wing political views, whose life changed in one day. Born on December 22, 1982 in Rostov-on-Don, he combined work at the McDonald's restaurant with his studies at the correspondence department of the Institute of History and International Relations of the Southern Federal University. However, his quest for justice and political activism made him a target of a repressive system.

On April 22, 2016, FSB officers detained Maxim, accusing him of corresponding on the social network VKontakte with Artur Panov, a citizen of Ukraine, whom the authorities suspected of preparing terrorist acts.

Smyshlyaev was charged with aiding and abetting terrorism (Part 3 of Article 205.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).



Maxim Smyshlyaev

The investigation claimed that he allegedly provided Panov with advice on the choice of place and time for the terrorist attack, as well as on conspiracy measures. These claims are based solely on their online

correspondence, the veracity and context of which raise many questions.

In 2017, the North Caucasus District Military Court sentenced Maxim Smyshlyaev to 10 years in a maximum security colony, and Artur Panov to 9 years in a general regime colony. Despite the severity of the punishment, Maxim's case caused a wide resonance among human rights activists.

Memorial Human Rights Centre recognized Smyshlyaev as a political prisoner, emphasizing the political background of his persecution. The decision of the investigation directly states that Maxim is a supporter of the "left-wing radical ideology" and "an active opponent of the current government", which actually puts his beliefs at the heart of the charges.

Maxim Smyshlyaev is serving his sentence in a maximum security colony in the city of Yurga, Kemerovo region.

THE CASE OF ARTYOM SAMSONOV

Artyom Anatolyevich Samsonov, a former deputy of the Legislative Assembly of the Primorsky Territory from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation¹, found himself at the center of one of the most controversial and discussed criminal trials in recent years. The charges against him and the subsequent harsh sentence caused a storm of doubts and speculation about the political background of the case.

In November 2021, Samsonov was detained on charges of committing violent acts of a sexual nature against a person under the age of 14 (paragraph "b" of Part 4 of Article 132 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation). A year later, on September 20, 2022, the Sovetsky

¹ CPRF is the official so called 'communist' party, almost fully controlled by the Kremlin regime. Despite its openly pro-regime position, which consists of supporting the war and repression, there are a few principled left-wing activists in it, whom we support as individuals, without sharing the party's position.

District Court of Vladivostok sentenced him to 13 years in a maximum security colony.



Artyom Samsonov

However, Samsonov's lawyers and supporters emphasize the oddities and violations that accompanied the investigation. The charges were based on the events of 2019 described in the police report. The document mentioned only the statement of citizen Safonova that Samsonov allegedly walked naked on the beach. Neither the minor boy nor his father appeared in this report. They appeared in the case file only in the fall of 2021, two years after the alleged events.

These circumstances make many doubt the fairness of the accusations. Human rights activists and political activists are sure that the case is related to Samsonov's political activities, his popularity in the region and the upcoming elections. As a prominent representative of the Communist Party, he repeatedly criticized the authorities and participated in high-profile public actions, which could make him an inconvenient figure for the regional elite.

Independent human rights project "Support for Political Prisoners. Memorial" recognized Artyom Samsonov as a political prisoner. They point to numerous procedural violations, the lack of reliable evidence and the clear focus of the case on discrediting the politician.

Samsonov's case raises questions not only about his personal fate, but also about the fate of political competition in Russia. When the court

becomes an instrument of reprisal against opponents of the authorities, justice and law lose all meaning.

THE CASE OF KONSTANTIN PAVLOV

Konstantin Leonidovich Pavlov, a former deputy of the Bryansk Regional Duma from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, has become another victim of the repressive system that persecutes political activists. In April 2023, he was arrested on charges of fraud on an especially large scale (Part 4 of Article 159 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).

A year and a half later, in October 2024, the Sovetsky District Court of Bryansk sentenced Pavlov to six years in prison in a general regime colony. Together with him, his brother was convicted, who received five years, as well as two alleged accomplices, sentenced to four years each. The court ordered all convicts to compensate for an amount equal to the alleged damage.

POLITICAL ASPECTS

The main intrigue of this case lies in Pavlov's social and political activities. He actively helped the families of illegally mobilized, including fathers of many children, and participated in campaigns for their return home. His work displeased the authorities, as it exposed systemic violations in the mobilization process and drew attention to injustices.

Pavlov's supporters and human rights activists argue that his criminal prosecution was a form of revenge for his independent position. In their opinion, the case was fabricated in order to neutralize the active politician and prevent his further public activities.

PUBLIC REACTION

Pavlov's case caused outrage among representatives of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and human rights activists. Many see

his arrest and harsh sentence as another attempt by the authorities to intimidate dissidents and suppress any opposition activity



Konstantin Pavlov

Pavlov, like many other representatives of the official Communist Party, faced double pressure: repression by the state and political isolation. His fate underscores the vulnerability of activists who dare to defend ordinary citizens and oppose the system.

THE CASE OF LEONID BOGRATEON

Leonid Bograteon is a left-wing municipal politician from Kamchatka Krai who served as the acting head of the city of Yelizovo. He was charged under two articles:

- Article 160, Part 4 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation - embezzlement/misappropriation on an especially large scale;
- Article 286, Part 3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation - abuse of office for selfish reasons.

The core of the charges: three orders for financial assistance and one for a bonus (order No. 40) to the then head of the Yelizovsky urban settlement, Artem Gagloshvili, who was under house arrest. The

investigation interprets the assistance and bonus as corrupt misappropriation of money and personal interest.

The decisions for which Bograteon is being tried today were based on a local regulatory act - the regulation on labor and incentives for persons holding municipal positions in the Yelizovsky urban settlement. It directly provides for the right of the head, on the basis of an application and supporting documents, to provide additional financial assistance in unforeseen circumstances and a difficult life situation; the final decision is within the competence of the head.

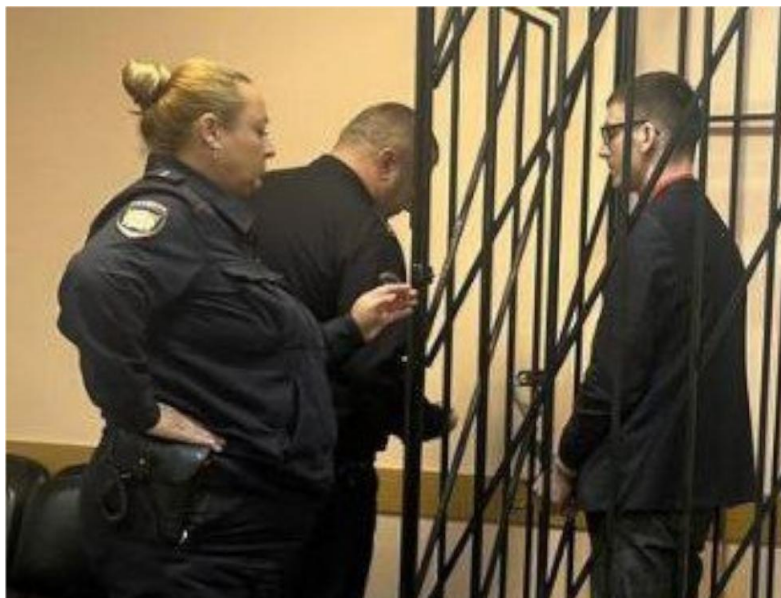
This is exactly the procedure that was followed: the application was submitted to the assembly of deputies, the legal department confirmed its legality, after which the orders were signed. Even representatives of the authorities unofficially acknowledged that the bonus "for time actually worked" was legal.

At the trial, this picture was confirmed by witnesses from both the defense and the prosecution: the head of the city administration apparatus, the head of the anti-corruption department, the control and accounting chamber, the chief accountant. They all testified that Leonid's actions were conditioned by the norms and competence of the position.

But judge Ivan Vorontsov ignored the testimony and arguments of the defense. On August 7, 2025, Bograteon was sentenced to 6 years in a general regime penal colony. The prosecution essentially relied not on evidence of personal gain, but on the assumption of "possible interest" - as if, having provided assistance, he counted on future services. The formula of Federal Law 273 on "conflict of interest" was applied in the case as extremely vague: where legal facts are insufficient, they are replaced by suspicions.

The context of the accusation is also important. In 2023–2024, Leonid openly opposed the local government reform in the Yelizovsky District, and his decisions were repeatedly thanked by residents and work collectives. In such a situation, a socially oriented order is easily turned into a "crime," and a refusal to "testify against the right people" is turned into personal guilt. This is how the familiar logic of a political

case is built: first, the devaluation of powers and regulations, then ignoring testimony and conclusions, and finally, a verdict that looks more like a signal to all other municipal and public figures: keep your head down.



Leonid Bograteon in the courthouse (right)

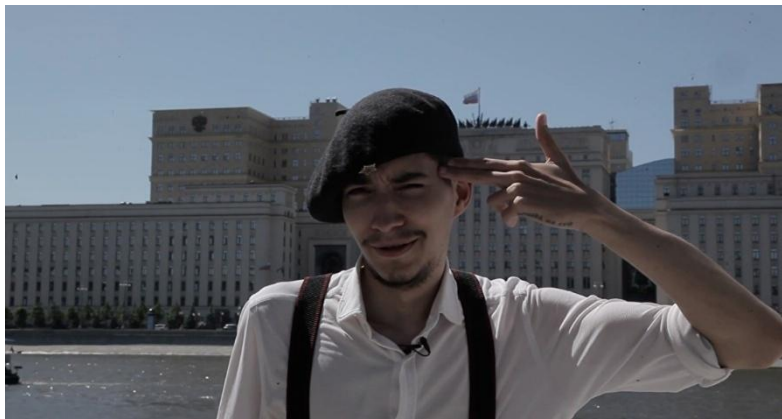
Leonid himself was extremely direct in his final statement:

"I acted according to the law. I acted according to my conscience. I did not receive any funds from the former head or anyone else. Judge me strictly - I am ready to answer for my principles. My conscience is clear."

Bograteon's sentence is not just about one man. It is about how the Russian judicial machine punishes attempts to act in favor of "grassroots" interests and how the very idea of municipal solidarity is criminalized. When local regulations are declared null and void and a conscientious decision is declared a "waste," justice ceases to be a procedure and becomes a means of intimidation. This is why Leonid's case requires solidarity: in the interests of not only himself, but also other leftist and social activists.

THE CASE OF PAVEL KRISEVICH

Pavel Olegovich Krisevich is a bright artist whose bold performances challenge the foundations of society and the Russian government. His actions aimed at drawing attention to political repression turned him from an artist into a political prisoner.



Pavel Krisevich

On June 11, 2021, on Red Square, Krisevich held a performance that shocked the audience and caused a harsh reaction from the authorities. He shouted: "Shots will follow before the Kremlin curtain," after which he fired twice into the air and feigned suicide, shooting himself in the head with an empty Makarov pistol. The action was designed to draw attention to the problem of political prisoners and condemn the repressive regime.

HARSH REACTION AND SENTENCE

Immediately after the act, Krisevich was detained by officers of the Federal Protective Service (FSO). He was accused of hooliganism with the use of a weapon (Part 2 of Article 213 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation). In October 2022, the Tverskoy District Court of Moscow sentenced the artist to five years in a general regime colony. However, the matter did not end there. In June 2023, the Moscow City Court granted the prosecution's motion to reconsider the case,

demanding that the "ideological motive" be taken into account. This decision strengthened the political coloring of the process. In September 2023, the court found Krisevich guilty again, clarifying the motives for his actions, and upheld the sentence.

The case of Pavel Krisevich caused a wide resonance. Human rights organizations, cultural figures and the international community expressed concerns about the severity of the sentence and the violation of the right to freedom of expression.



One of Krisevich's public actions

Krisevich's supporters insist that his actions were a form of artistic protest that should not be considered a criminal offense. They emphasize that the use of blank weapons and the absence of a real threat to life made the action extremely symbolic.

While in prison, Krisevich continues to be creative and keep in touch with the outside world through letters. In his letters, he shares his thoughts on life, art and plans for the future. He also expresses support for other political prisoners and calls for solidarity.

In addition, Krisevich actively participates in prison life, striving to maintain creative activity and morale. He plans to continue his artistic activities after his release, despite the difficulties he faces in prison.

Thus, even while in prison, Pavel remains true to his convictions and continues his creative activity, using the means available to him to express his thoughts and to support like-minded people.

SERGEY UDALTSOV'S CASES

Sergey Udaltsov is a well-known left-wing Russian politician. He was one of the brightest representatives of the opposition and the organizer of mass protests against the authorities.

ARREST AND CHARGES

The first time Sergey Udaltsov was arrested was in 2012 on charges of organizing mass riots on Bolotnaya Square in Moscow during a protest action on May 6, 2012, during protests against the results of the parliamentary and presidential elections, which were considered by many as unfair and falsified. These protests have become a symbol of dissatisfaction with the current government and mass attempts by citizens to express their dissatisfaction.

In the case, the investigation charged Udaltsov with organizing riots and violent actions. It is important to note that Udaltsov himself and his supporters have always made sure that the protests were peaceful and were not aimed at violence or overthrow of the government. However, the authorities used this case as an excuse to suppress the opposition movement, which became part of a general trend in recent years – pressure on protesters and persecution of political activists.

TRIAL

The trial of Udaltsov was accompanied by harsh criticism from human rights organizations and the international community, which considered the case to be politically motivated. Udaltsov's defenders

claimed that he was a victim of repression for his active political position and for his participation in protests.

In 2014, Udaltsov was sentenced to 4.5 years in prison on charges of organizing mass riots and preparing a violent seizure of power. In 2016, after almost three years in prison, he was released early. However, even after his release, he continued to remain under pressure from the authorities, which indicates the political orientation of the persecution.



AFTERTASTE OF THE EVENTS

Sergey Udaltsov

After his release in 2016, Udaltsov continued his political activities, but his position gradually changed. In recent years, he has been at the center of ambiguous political positions. In particular, in 2023, he became a supporter of a political course that included elements of social chauvinism and an openly pro-Russian position, which, on the one hand, reflects his criticism of the liberal opposition, and on the other hand, causes criticism from more radical and left-wing activists, including our organization. Udaltsov called for the use of state forces to suppress the anti-war liberal opposition, which called into question the sincerity of his political struggle, and also caused concern among his supporters. His wife, Anastasia Udaltsova, is also a deputy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and votes for repressive laws, and also practically does not publicly raise the issue of Sergei's release.

Sergei Udaltsov actively spoke out against anti-war protests and put forward ideas about the protection of the state, which is quite consistent with the authoritarian policy of the Russian authorities. In particular, he has repeatedly stressed that in a military situation, it is necessary to maintain stability, even if it means suppressing protest movements. This calls into question his commitment to democratic values and human rights, and also raises questions about his political motivations.

Yet, despite all these controversial moments in his political career, we, as left-wing activists, recognize him as a political prisoner. Memorial Human Rights Centre and other organisations, despite criticism of its position, claim that the case against Udaltsov is clearly politically motivated and that he has been the victim of repression against political opponents of the authorities.

Udaltsov's case in 2023, in particular his arrest and prosecution, caused a wide public and human rights outcry. On the one hand, his position, in light of support for the war and state repressive policies, makes his figure controversial and causes condemnation among some left-wing activists. On the other hand, we cannot ignore the fact that the politically motivated prosecution of Udaltsov is an example of a broader practice of pressure on opposition activists and a demonstration of how the system suppresses any form of criticism of the current regime, even if this criticism comes from people who are considered part of the same left-wing movement.

Thus, despite the contradictory position of Sergei Udaltsov, we consider him a political prisoner, since his persecution is related exclusively to his political beliefs and actions directed against the authorities. We are also convinced that such repression against any political activists is a dangerous signal that demonstrates the desire of the authorities to suppress dissent at any cost, even among their own political opponents.

REPRESSION CONTINUES

We also must mention several cases that have not led to criminal prosecutions at the moment, but the fact of systematic pressure in them is obvious. These cases require publicity, as they can become part of further persecution. Organizing a effective response can prevent this.

THE CASE OF NIKITA LOPATIN

Nikita Lopatin is an activist of the Organization of Voronezh Marxists and a student of history. On January 17, 2025, after an exam on the territory of the building of the Faculty of History of Voronezh State University, two unknown persons approached him, presented a summons under Article 20.3 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation and detained him. Prior to that, Nikita was detained back in early October 2024 for organizing an event in memory of President Yeltsin's shooting of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. This time, Nikita was arrested the day before the meeting with the Voronezh taxi drivers in order to form a strike committee, which was formed after spontaneous strikes by taxi drivers on January 14 in many regions of Russia.



Nikita Lopatin

After the arrest, the police officer asked Lopatin's defenders to leave the station, under the pretext that he would be taken to court, although the delivery to the court never happened.

The police charged him demonstrating extremist symbols in his news publication covering the situation around the Nazi who crippled a guy from Kostroma, where, of course, the act was condemned. Nikita was taken to the 6th police station, where lawyers were able to ensure that he was given food and warm clothes. During the detention, Nikita became ill, because of that he was admitted to hospital No10 in Voronezh, where he was hospitalized in a pre-clinical state, tentatively for 7 days. However, during the hospitalization, the police exerted pressure, trying to discharge Nikita early.

Voronezh news portals such as "Vesti Voronezh", "Moy i Tvoy Voronezh" and "Bolshoy Voronezhsky" began to make false and unverified stuffing that Nikita was allegedly "not detained", "did not draw up a protocol", but only "invited for a conversation", although there was the very fact of having the protocol in hand.

THE CASES OF SERGEY KRUPENKO

Sergey Krupenko is an activist, journalist, author and host of the YouTube channel "Red Turn", a member of the Russian Communist Party (Internationalists). One of the few who, in the conditions of growing terror, continued to openly and legally speak about current events - their causes, consequences and substitution of concepts in propaganda.

On June 29, 2023, two hearings were held in the Novosibirsk Regional Court, which found the author and host of the YouTube channel "Red Turn", a member of the Russian Communist Party (Internationalists) Sergey Krupenko guilty of committing an administrative offense under Part 1 of Article 20.3.3 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation - discrediting the actions of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. The formal basis was two analytical videos:

- "The myth of the "genocide" of Donbass before the start of the SVO. The demographic catastrophe is happening now!";
- "Russia has "grown" on the territories of Ukraine. In whose interests?"

It is noteworthy that in order to reach such a conclusion, the judges had to construct a whole "logical chain": they say that criticism of the government's decisions on the SVO, analysis of the consequences of the war is already an undermining of trust in the army:

"[...] Krupenko's actions are aimed at condemning the decisions of the current Russian government to conduct a special military operation in Donbass. He outlines the negative consequences of the SMO, which creates a negative attitude towards the Russian Armed Forces, discredits the goals and objectives of their use in Donbass."

Both appeals were lost, despite the defense pointing out procedural violations, including missed statutes of limitations.



Sergei Krupenko at a rally on May 1, 2025 in Novosibirsk

More than two years later, on July 21, 2025, the Novosibirsk Central Court found Sergei Krupenko guilty of committing an administrative offense under Part 1 of Article 20.3.3 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation on "discrediting" and fined him 30,000 rubles.

The case is related to S. Krupenko's speech on May 1 at a rally in Novosibirsk, which was held under the slogan "Peace to the peoples! Yes to the brotherhood of workers!" It is noteworthy that this is the largest legal anti-war rally this year.

The case was initiated not by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, but by the regional department of the FSB. It was they who, back in late May, ordered a linguistic examination of the activist's speech from the private structure "Center of Expertise". The so-called "specialist" found "negative information" about the Russian Armed Forces in the speech – a formulation that does not even coincide with the text of Article 20.3.3 of the Code of Administrative Offenses, which is not about negative information in itself, but about discrediting the use of the army.

The following statement was given as evidence:

"In essence, today we are witnessing the very fascism of the political regime, which the government representatives talk about a lot from the podium, but they usually point in the other direction, to the West. There are fascists there, and here in Russia we have bourgeois democracy.

But we look, look around and see, whose favorite philosopher is Ivan Ilyin, the ideologist of Russian fascism? Is it our President's? We look around and see, who is inciting national hatred with budget money? Is it that Ridovka, who is not just nationalist, but already a real Nazi? We look, who is fighting in the ranks of the Russian armed forces? Certainly not some Russian fascists, with tattoos in the form of a swastika, among other things?"

From this, the "expert" concludes: Sergei Krupenko "attributed the presence of Nazis to the Russian Armed Forces", which means he "expressed negative information", which, in the court's opinion, is sufficient for prosecution.

The defense's arguments were ignored. Lawyer Vasily Dubkov emphasized:

- The philosopher Ivan Ilyin mentioned in the speech is indeed revered in ruling circles;
- The participation of individual radicals in the SVO is not a secret, but a fact confirmed by Alexei Milchakov himself (the leader of the DShRG "Rusich"), who called himself a "Nazi" in a public interview, to which Krupenko referred;
- Multiple inaccuracies both in the "specialist's" conclusion and in the procedure itself, which do not comply with either the law or the methodological requirements of the Russian Ministry of Justice.
- The "linguistic" examination contradicts the basic methodological requirements of the Russian Ministry of Justice; a psychological-linguistic examination should be conducted instead.

Why is this case important? Article 280.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation provides for imprisonment for up to five years if a repeated "offense" under an administrative article was committed within a year. Considering that this is not the first sentence, Sergei Krupenko could become a potential political prisoner at any moment.

THE CASE OF ANATOLY OBUKHOV

On July 11, 2025, in the Irkutsk region, the deputy of the local Legislative Assembly (regional parliament) from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Anatoly Obukhov was arrested. Now he is essentially under house arrest.

The formal reason for the arrest is charges under Article 159, Part 4 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. At least, this is what the media reports (Obukhov himself is prohibited from disclosing information about the case). According to another local deputy from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, Yevgeny Sarsenbayev, we are talking about fraud with the representative expenses of

deputies in 2015-2019, the money for which is allocated from the regional budget. But there are a number of points that cast doubt on the official version of the accusation:

Firstly, everyone who personally knew Anatoly could see that he lived poorly, not even having, for example, personal transport and did not particularly change his lifestyle during the years of his deputyship.

Secondly, only Obukhov was arrested, although, as the same Sarsenbayev reports, there are several defendants in the case. Presumably, we are talking about other (former) deputies from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation faction in the Legislative Assembly of the previous convocation. It gets more interesting: Anatoly Obukhov is the only openly and consistently opposition deputy of the Legislative Assembly of the Irkutsk Region, known for his public and human rights activities, which is especially important in conditions when independent public political activity is almost impossible.

Anatoly regularly raised pressing issues both at meetings of the regional parliament and in his social networks: he wrote about dilapidated housing, commercial point development, elections, ecology, medicine, social benefits. He is the most media-friendly of the Irkutsk deputies from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and has worked most actively with local protests (for example, with the protests of residents of the Akademgorodok district against the development of a grove in June of this year).

Obukhov not only covered the problems caustically and mercilessly, but also tried to take into account the opinions of voters as much as possible, regularly conducting regular polls on his social networks about how to vote on bills. He also often and actively helped citizens defend their rights, as a professional lawyer with parliamentary powers.

On July 12, Obukhov was given a preventive measure - a ban on certain actions. However, according to the combined press service of the courts of the Irkutsk region, he was not only banned from using communication devices, receiving mail, etc., but also from visiting the

premises of any political parties, which is a ban on politics in principle. At the moment - only until September 9.

There are also reasons to eliminate deputy Obukhov within the Irkutsk Communist Party of the Russian Federation. It should be noted that gubernatorial elections are scheduled for September 14, in which former governor Sergei Levchenko is nominated as a candidate from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation. And Anatoly Obukhov also has a serious conflict with Levchenko. It is known that Obukhov often entered into polemics in the party, expressing his principled position. They tried to remove him more than once and, in the end, he was removed from the leadership of one of the district branches of the party in Irkutsk (according to people close to the CPRF, he was removed purely bureaucratically, ignoring the opinion of ordinary party members).



Anatoly Obukhov

The conflict recently became public: Anatoly made a number of harsh statements against Levchenko on his Telegram channel and VK, essentially characterizing his activities as the use of party resources for personal purposes, working for business and essentially no different

from the governorship of Edinaya Rossiya (*United Russia*, ruling Putin's party) member Kobzev. Among Anatoly's other accusations against Levchenko is his assistance to the authorities in eliminating the opposition and Kobzev's rise to power:

"After all, it is no secret to anyone that Sergei Georgievich [Levchenko], who lives by the rule "Either I am a candidate, or nobody!" is not going to win the gubernatorial elections, but is simply making a fuss in order to show the party's central committee that it is too early to write him off and that he can still make a splash in the region, and therefore, he is worthy of running for the State Duma in 2026 from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation on the party lists, with all the perks that come with it, after his next election as a State Duma deputy."

In general, it is still unclear whether the "machinations" imputed to Obukhov actually took place, and which of the "several defendants" carried them out, but one gets the full impression that someone set up the opposition deputy at the right moment so that he would not ruin the business and interfere with yet another behind-the-scenes agreement of the ruling class.

According to independent Marxists of the Irkutsk Region, Obukhov is the most honest and ideological deputy from the local Communist Party of the Russian Federation, for whom the word "leftist ideas" is not an empty phrase, which is rare for Zyuganov's party. Obukhov also helped in the development of Marxist circles in Irkutsk and Angarsk, which became platforms for the campaign against raising the retirement age.

THE CASE OF IVAN MEREZHNIKOV

In the first half of June 2025, left-wing activist Ivan Merezhnikov was detained and arrested in Votkinsk (Udmurtia Republic). Ivan's activities at the local level greatly interfered with the authorities and businesses. Thanks to him, an oil refining waste landfill and a garbage dump near kindergarten No. 6 were not built in Votkinsk. Ivan also fought against

officials who allowed the Physical Culture and Health Complex for the Disabled to be converted into a "FIX price" store.

Ivan was detained on June 11, 2025, right at his workplace by FSB officers. According to Andrey Rudoy, Maria Alekseyevna Zametaeva, the illegitimate daughter of the Head of Votkinsk, wrote a statement against him: allegedly, Ivan published her data in a Telegram channel in May 2023: last name, first name and patronymic, date of birth, VIN number of the car.



Ivan Merezhnikov

Ivan is currently under house arrest and is charged under an article of the criminal code. What is noteworthy is that the car involved in the case had already been sold by the "victim" when the law came into force.

THE CASE OF "WORKERS POWER" AND GARRY AZARYAN

On April 21, 2025, the pro-government publication RIA Novosti reported on the discovery of a certain group of students with left-wing radical views at St. Petersburg State University (SPbU).

They report that Artyom Pronko, a university student, is accused of "violating the rules for holding a rally" because of the installation that appeared on March 24 on the monument to Count Uvarov under an administrative article.

The government media and the police accused Pronko of being a member of the student cell of the Trotskyists "Workers' Power", claiming that the membership of all members of the group had been established. Tellingly, they accused this group of "joining an international alliance with a governing center in the UK", calling them "pro-British supporters" allegedly acting in the context of the deterioration of relations between Russia and Great Britain.

On the same day, independent media reported that LETI student Stepan Timofeev was detained in the same case and a protocol was drawn up.

A few weeks later, the case took a further turn. On 13 March, the Primorsky District Court fined 26-year-old Alexei Sidorov, a musician with the band Silver Machine, 20,000 roubles under the article on inciting hatred or enmity (Article 20.3.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation), citing membership of Workers Power as one of the grounds for the sentence.

On 15 May, searches were conducted in St. Petersburg at the homes of people allegedly associated with the radical left-wing group Workers Power: Garry Azaryan, Oleg Rubish, Irada Ibragimova, Denis Koval, Sergei Kadnikov and Kirill. The reason was a criminal case under the article on 'calls for terrorism' brought against 23-year-old student Garry Azaryan from Kazakhstan.



A mannequin of the goddess of wisdom Minerva, suspended from the monument of the tsarist official Count Uvarov, who at one time strengthened the control over universities. Next to it was a note: "Science is dead."

According to the Investigative Committee, Azaryan allegedly called for 'terrorist activity and mass killings' at internal meetings of the organisation. The 'evidence' cited includes transcripts of speeches allegedly containing phrases about 'class hatred' and 'revolution.' Leaflets, brochures ('Manifesto of Workers' Power'), and books were seized from those involved in the case, and interrogations were conducted. Human rights activists report that one of the detainees, named Kirill, was beaten. Some of the detainees were released with witness status, which, as the security forces warned, 'could change quickly.'

On 16 May 2025, by decision of the Krasnogvardeisky Court of St. Petersburg, Garry Azaryan was remanded in custody in SIZO-1 for a period of two months, starting from that day. According to Rabochaya Vlast itself, materials from the congress were downloaded from the

account of one of its comrades before it was shut down, and some of the documents were altered and falsified.

On May 16, 2025, by decision of the Krasnogvardeisky Court of St. Petersburg, Garry Azaryan was placed in custody in Pre-trial Detention Center No. 1 for a period of 2 months, starting from that day. On July 11 and August 13, 2025, the court extended the arrest until October 14. The lawyer insisted that Garry be placed under house arrest, since he does not seek to interfere with the investigation. Garry also supported the petition, saying that he knows the owner of the apartment and does not intend to let her down. However, due to the fact that not all the evidence has been collected, and the examination has not yet been completed and must be completed by September 30, the judge refused.



Garry Azaryan

According to the "Workers' Power" itself, materials from the congress were downloaded from the account of one of the comrades before the shutdown, some documents were changed and falsified.

On May 22, 2025, Workers' Power dissolved itself, announcing the following:

"The steamroller of political repression has been launched and is systematically rolling over people who are considered to be connected with our movement. [...]"

This makes it inappropriate for us to continue political activity as a single organization. [...] We do not recognize the accusations brought against the organization and its affiliated people. [...] Claims to the contrary are a deliberate forgery aimed at discrediting the communist movement as a whole and our supporters in particular. [...]"

We have always worked in the legal field and openly propagated Marxist ideas. [...] The decision to disband was dictated not by fear, but by a sense of responsibility. We will not allow a single comrade of ours to fall under the hammers of the repressive machine for the sake of dubious image goals. [...]"

It is impossible to ban the idea of freedom, equality, and workers' self-government - time after time it will be in demand by life itself. Now the most important task is to help the detained communist Garry Azaryan."

Today, student self-organization, if it is not integrated into the official vertical and expresses class views, automatically falls under suspicion. Persecution for political reasons, an attempt to intimidate the student left movement and break the young organizational culture - this is part of the general line to suppress any critical thinking in the conditions of militarization and reaction.

THE CASE OF ARTYOM BORODIN

Artem Borodin is a left-wing activist, a native of Donetsk, an activist of the Revolutionary Workers' Party. Living in Moscow, he periodically brought humanitarian aid to his hometown. Before the start of the full-scale war, Artem and his wife went to Donetsk to digitize a film, and when the war began, he was unable to leave. Artem decided that since he was stuck in Donetsk, he needed to be useful to the leftist

movement, and began distributing leaflets and distributing the newspaper "Workers' Democracy" ("Rabochaya demokratiya").

In March 2022, Artem was kidnapped by employees of the "Ministry of State Security of the Donetsk People's Republic" for posting leaflets. This was accompanied by interrogation and intimidation of his wife, a search of their home, and the confiscation of equipment and leaflets. From March 5, 2022, Artem sat in the "podval"¹ for two months, after which he was transferred to the Donetsk pre-trial detention center, where he remained until December 2022. He was accused of "inciting hatred and enmity" under Part 1 of Article 328 of the DPR Criminal Code.

Artem's comrades repeatedly asked the Russian Foreign Ministry to influence the situation and secure the release of the Russian citizen, but the Foreign Ministry threw up its hands - "another country, we can't do anything." But even after the "referendums" Artem was not released, there was no information about his fate.

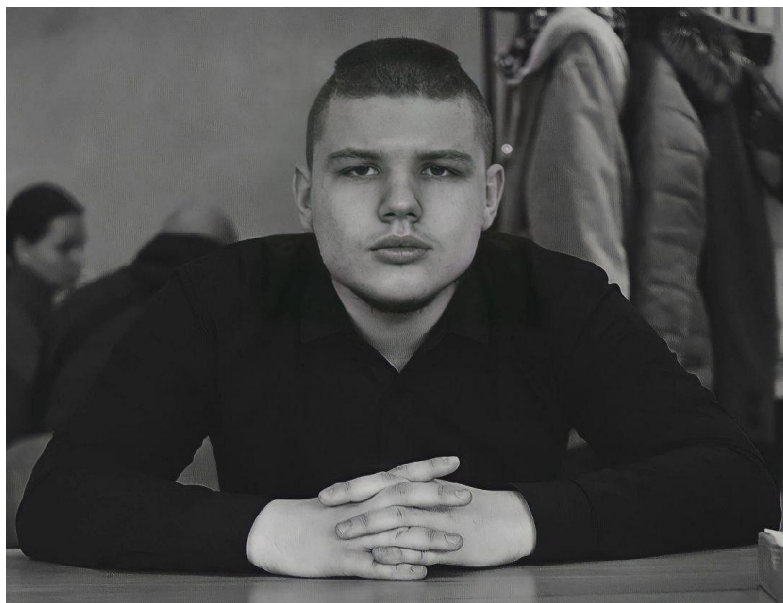
Through the efforts of the lawyer and Artem himself, the measure of restraint was changed to an obligation to stay at home at night and not use means of communication. At the end of December 2022, the court on the extension of the measure of restraint allowed Artem to visit his family (mother and wife) in Moscow during the New Year holidays from January 1 to 8.

He used this to hide. Information about his movements was not known even to his fellow party members until he contacted them and said that he was safe and intended to ask for political asylum. After that, he lived in Kyrgyzstan.

On August 10, 2025, he was detained and stopped communicating, 20 days later it became known that he was in SIZO-1 in Bishkek. If deported to Russia, he could face torture and a long prison sentence.

¹ Podval ("The Basement") is a semi-legal or illegal torture prison of armed groups, actively used by both sides of the war in Ukraine since 2014.

Often, being in the "basement" can be accompanied not only by torture, but also by financial blackmail of the relatives of the "detainee" (actually kidnapped).



Artyom Borodin

HOW TO BREAK THE SILENCE?

In this book, we were able to present information about 47 defendants in various criminal cases, one way or another connected with the left movement. However, unfortunately, it is worth acknowledging that the number of left-wing political prisoners in modern Russia is much higher. We were not able to collect information about many of them, but we know for sure that there may be up to a hundred such people. Many of these people, alas, prefer not to share information about their cases, fearing the consequences. Some of them simply did not have time to declare themselves, because they are in custody, cut off from the world.

The stories of these people, their struggle, their sacrifices, remain invisible to society. This is the darkness that has swallowed too many lives, and this darkness still remains around us. And while the world continues to look on, not noticing, we must remember that each of these prisoners is a living person, someone's fate, someone's dreams and someone's aspirations for a better future that they could not see. It is important to understand that despite all this darkness, we are not unarmed. We can influence what is happening. Our voices, our solidarity, our determination can awaken other hearts and help this battle be heard. As long as there are people ready to fight for the truth, as long as there are those who are not afraid to stand on the side of those who have been forgotten and expelled by the system, we can change this.

Our efforts, our attention, our support are what can help these people not to remain in the shadows, but to break out of this silence. We must continue to fight for their release, for the freedom of their opinions, for the opportunity to live freely and express their beliefs without fear for their lives.

Political prisoners who find themselves behind bars because of their beliefs and actions should not be left to their fate. In Russia, under conditions of political repression and tightening of laws, their number is growing, and their fates often go unnoticed. Many of them are left-wing activists, fighters for justice, freedom and equality, who ended up

in prison for openly opposing authoritarianism and for their determination to speak out against war, oppression and injustice.

HOW WE CAN ALL HELP

First, the most important form of assistance is the distribution of information. The more people learn about political prisoners and their cases, the more difficult it will be for the authorities to keep silent about their fate. We can help by spreading the word about detentions, trials, and violations of prisoners' rights through social media, blogs, and personal media appeals. This helps to keep their cases in sight and draws attention to the need for a fair trial. This is important not only in Russia itself, but also abroad.

FUNDRAISING FOR LEGAL AID

Political prisoners are often deprived of the opportunity for decent protection. Sometimes they have to fight the system without qualified lawyers. Organizing crowdfunding campaigns to raise funds for lawyers, experts, and other legal expenses is one of the most important ways to support.

LETTERS AND PARCELS

Letters of support and solidarity are of great importance to prisoners, especially when they are in solitary confinement or isolated from the outside world. Letters and postcards can not only support them morally, but also demonstrate that they have not been forgotten. It is also important to send parcels with basic necessities: books, clothes, medicines to alleviate their conditions.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY

Connections with international human rights organizations and activists will help draw the attention of the world community to the problems of political prisoners in Russia. Protests, statements,

petitions and official appeals to international organizations such as the UN or the European Union can put pressure on the Russian authorities.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND SELF-ORGANIZATION

The most important thing is to continue and support the fight for social justice. The sacrifices made by dozens of Russian left-wing political prisoners will not be in vain if their work continues. Only solidarity and regular political work can be a worthy response to the repression of the dictatorship and the oppression not only of activists, but also of ordinary people.

HOW CAN THE LEFT OF OTHER COUNTRIES HELP?

INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

The international left, where possible, should work hard through protests and parliaments to ensure international pressure on the Kremlin. This includes solidarity actions, as well as official appeals and resolutions demanding the release of political prisoners and an end to the persecution for political beliefs. Left-wing parliamentarians can initiate resolutions that call for respect for human rights and freedoms in Russia. Left-wing organizations and movements can organize public actions, rallies and demonstrations to highlight political prisoners. These actions can be timed to coincide with important dates, such as the anniversary of the arrest of a particular activist or International Human Rights Day. The international left can organize petitions' campaigns to demand justice and the release of political prisoners.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

European human rights organizations and advocacy groups can offer their assistance in trials or appeals if prisoners try to challenge their charges. There are precedents when international intervention in the

form of lawyers or experts has helped to change the situation for political prisoners in countries with repressive regimes

FINANCIAL AID

Left-wing movements and activists can provide financial assistance to the families of political prisoners. This is especially important for families who are left destitute when their loved ones end up in prison. Organizing international fundraising events or donations can be an effective way to provide support.

EDUCATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION

The foreign left, having greater freedom of speech and access to information, can actively disseminate information about political repression against left in Russia and its consequences. Opening thematic lectures, holding round tables, distributing literature and video materials about political prisoners will help raise awareness and mobilize public opinion.

CONCLUSION

The stories collected in this book are not just testimonies of repression and abstract names. They are the voices of resistance and living people fighting for their beliefs and values. These are the voices of those who have chosen the path of struggle - despite the risk, pain, isolation.

We must support them, because right now, when they are deprived of their freedom, their voices must sound louder than ever to make the regime's repression ineffective. It is important to remember that supporting political prisoners is not only a moral duty, but also a fight for a future where freedom, equality and justice will be true values.

We cannot allow these stories to remain unanswered. We cannot remain observers. Because if we remain silent today, tomorrow we ourselves or those dear to us will find ourselves in these stories. The state machines of oppression work without fail. Their goal is fear and

atomization. To separate, to isolate, to erase the sense of community. But history shows that no dictatorship lasts forever. Solidarity is the most powerful weapon against repression. Organization is a shield that can protect and change. Now, not sometime later, is the time to unite. Time to create sustainable support networks, solidarity initiatives, mutual aid, international alliances. Time to speak out loud when others are silenced.

We call on all who share the values of freedom, equality, and social justice to act. Not limit themselves to sympathy. Write letters to prisoners. Participate in actions. Support lawyers. Help families. Spread the truth. Organize — in cities, in countries, around the world. Only collective action can resist repression, restore justice, and give back a voice to those who are being silenced.

This book is not only about those behind bars. It is about us. About our choice — to be there. Or to be indifferent.

We can all be their voices, as can the European left, who can use their platform and influence to increase international pressure on the Russian regime. Together, we can show that repression will not go unpunished.

THE RESISTANCE CONTINUES

Despite the steamroller of repression, despite the isolation, despite the seeming hopelessness, the resistance continues. Where the state tries to silence voices, we amplify them. Where the regime builds walls, we build bridges. While our comrades behind bars continue their struggle, we, who remain at large, are obliged to be their voice, their continuation, their hope.

We are the Post-Soviet Left (PSL) - a young but already formed force, building the unity of the internationalist left today, uniting in a common struggle.

Supporting our comrades in the post-Soviet countries, since 2024 we have taken to the streets in different cities of Europe. First, Russian-

speaking leftists showed themselves on May Day in Cologne, over the year our geography, together with our allies, has expanded to Cologne, Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Warsaw, Buenos Aires and other cities. While participating in local protests against the far right and militarization, we also held our own anti-war actions in cities in France and Germany, which did not fit into the mainstream media agenda, supporting the right of both Russian and Ukrainian people to consciously refuse to participate in military actions, for their civil and political rights. All these actions became steps to strengthen a real anti-war leftist agenda, which does not divide people into friends and foes by their passports, but recognizes the right of everyone to peace and resistance to violence.

The struggle is not limited to the streets. We created the Migrant Collective project to protect the labor and social rights of our compatriots in Europe. Together with Ukrainian and Russian guides, we participated in a strike in France and plan to develop a labor movement of migrants from post-Soviet countries.

We continue to talk about political prisoners. Their names are not just a list, they are evidence of the crimes of the regime and the unbreakable nature of those behind bars. In addition to this book, we have already published three editions of a brochure about Russian left-wing political prisoners in four languages. We also try to keep in touch with the prisoners themselves - and when they write to us that our words reached them and supported them - it means that we are not doing everything in vain.

We also talk about those whose existence is generally little known - about left-wing political prisoners in Kazakhstan, Belarus, Ukraine, about the right to protest and self-organization throughout the post-Soviet space. On June 20, 2025, we ourselves almost became an organization with a political prisoner: our comrade was tried by the Berlin District Court for active participation and solidarity with the people of the Gaza Strip. What is remarkable is that the acquittal in his case became a precedent not only for migrants, but also for the entire German community, as it was the first major verdict on these protests.

We are divided by borders, but united by a common goal: to stop the war, the dictatorship and to build another world - a world of freedom, equality and justice. As long as our voice is heard, the resistance continues.

We are for collective action, for the solidarity of workers regardless of nationality and origin. Our strength is in solidarity and in the fact that together with our allies in the post-Soviet countries on the ground we are trying to continue the resistance, no matter what.

THE CHOICE IS OURS! THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!



JOIN THE LEFT-WING
EMIGRANT RESISTANCE:

POSTSOVIETLEFT.ORG

[T.ME/POSTSOVIETLEFT_ENG](https://t.me/POSTSOVIETLEFT_ENG)

THIS BOOK IS THE VOICE OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT HEARD. THIS IS THE VOICE OF RUSSIAN LEFT-WING POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, WHOSE NAMES RARELY APPEAR IN THE NEWS IN STATE AND "INDEPENDENT" MEDIA. THEREFORE, THEIR STRUGGLE OFTEN BECOMES INVISIBLE BOTH IN RUSSIA AND ABROAD.

IN THIS BOOK WE WILL TALK ABOUT THE REPRESSIONS AGAINST THE LEFT IN RUSSIA, THEIR SCALE AND HOW TO RESIST THEM.