

[Translation from Russian; all bracketed text added by translator]

MEMORIAL HUMAN RIGHTS

CENTER

127051 Russia, Moscow, Malyi Karetnyi Lane 12

Tel. +7 (495) 225-3118

Fax +7 (495) 699-1165

E-mail: memohrc@memohrc.org

[Website: <https://memohrc.org/ru>]



List of individuals acknowledged by Memorial Human Rights Center as political prisoners (not including those persecuted for exercising their right to freedom of religion) as of March 1, 2018

We take “political prisoners” to mean both individuals serving prison sentences as well as individuals in detention or under house arrest. On our list, we include those persecuted in connection with exercising their legal rights and those who are being unlawfully – or clearly disproportionately – prosecuted on the authorities’ political motives. On our list of political prisoners, we do not include those who used violence or called for violence on the basis of religion, ethnicity, race, etc. For full criteria of political prisoner classification click here to access our website (<https://memohrc.org/ru#programs/40>)

This list contains the names of 46 political prisoners, not counting those persecuted primarily for exercising their right to religious freedom – those individuals are named on a separate list. We know our list is incomplete. It contains only those names and those cases for which we were able to gather and analyze sufficient materials on order to reach a substantiated conclusion that the criminal prosecution was politically motivated and illegal. Numerous prisoners apparently persecuted unlawfully and for political motives are not listed because we currently either haven’t received the necessary materials or are still in the process of analyzing them.

Political prisoners represent various groups victimized by the State’s repressive policies. The “Ukrainian footprint” is obvious in cases of current or former citizens of Ukraine – Mustafa Degermenji, Ali Asanov, Vladimir Balukh, Stanislav Klykha, Nikolai Karpiuk, Andrei

Kolomiyetz, Alexander Kostenko, Oleg Sentzov, Alexander Kolchenko, Sergei Litvinov and Vladimir Prisich. The cases of Russian citizens Denis Bakholdin and Danis Safargali also involve the authorities' anti-Ukrainian campaign.

Restricting the right to freedom of assembly remains one of the main goals of imprisoning individuals on political motives. Still imprisoned in connection with the "March 26 Case" [translator note: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/ovd-info/26-march-russia-protest>] are Alexander Shpakov, Dmitry Krepkin, Alexei Politikov, Dmitry Borisov and Stanislav Zimovetz.

The assault on the freedom of speech and the freedom to disseminate information, especially on the web, continues: exercising this right is a reason Alexei Kungurov, Robert Zagreyev and Vadim Tumentzev are jailed, and Mark Galperin is under house arrest. Jailed on false charges are journalists Igor Rudnikov, known for his high-profile investigations in Kaliningrad, and Zhalaudi Geriyev in Chechnya.

Criminal prosecution levers are used to restrict the freedom of association. Without grounds, the ZOV [*Za otvetstvennuiu vlast'* – For Responsible Government] public referendum initiative was criminalized, and its members Valery Parfenov, Alexander Sokolov and Kirill Barabash are serving prison sentences. Also criminalized was the B.A.R.S [*Baltiiskii avangard rossijskogo soprotivleniya* – Baltic Avant-Garde of Russian Resistance] association of Kaliningrad regionalists and monarchists, and Alexander Orshulevich, Igor Ivanov, Alexander Mamayev and Nikolai Sentzov are imprisoned on charges of belonging to this group.

The flywheel of unlawful repressions provides the tools for suppressing any public activity undesirable at various levels of government. For example, Ivan Barylyak, who fought for housing rights, and Alexander Eivazov, who exposed court system violations, fell victim to this.

Charges of treason are used to serve the propaganda purposes of creating Russia's image as a country surrounded by enemies, and Svyatoslav Bobyshev, Gennady Kravtsov, Petr

Parpulov and Vladimir Lapygin fell victim to this.

Persecution of human rights activists in Chechnya has been unleashed with renewed vigor: the head of Memorial Human Rights Center's Grozny office Oyub Titiyev was arrested on absurd and egregious trumped-up charges.

Dozens of Russian Criminal Code Articles were used as tools of political repressions. Political prisoners fell victim in the last few years to the most-commonly levied charges of "extremism" (inciting hatred and antagonism, public calls for extremist activity, organizing an organization's extremist activity), "terrorism" (terrorist act, abetting criminal activity, calling for such activity and justifying such activity, organizing a terrorist group), Criminal Code Articles governing public events (mass unrest, numerous violations of the rules for holding a public event, violence against a government representative).

[Translator note: out of 46 names on the list, only the part pertaining to Pichugin, No. 31 on the list, is translated.]

31. Alexei Vladimirovich Pichugin born July 25, 1962, former head of Yukos Oil Company's internal economic security department. In 2005 and 2007, he was convicted by two verdicts under RF CC Art. 162 (assault and robbery) and Art. 105 (murder) and cumulatively sentenced to life in prison in a special-regime correctional facility. In custody since June 19, 2003.