Rights in Russia
Week-ending 24 May 2024

Russia's War against Ukraine

Ukraine's General Prosecutor's Office says 547 children have been confirmed killed and 1,348 wounded to various degrees of severity since the start of Russia's unprovoked full-scale invasion. (RFE/RL, 24/5/24)

Russia has returned six children to Ukraine with the help of Qatari mediators, Russian state media reported Wednesday. (The Moscow Times, 22/5/24)

Ukraine says Russian shelling targeted civilians in two cities in the north-eastern region of Kharkiv on Saturday. (The Guardian, 19/5/24)

A Moscow court fined Stanislav Netyosov 30,000 rubles ($330) on a charge of discrediting the Russian military after dying his hair blue and yellow. (RFE/RL, 20/5/24)

A court in Novosibirsk sentenced anti-war activist Ilya Baburin to 25 years in prison on charges of planning to set several military recruitment centers on fire. (RFE/RL, 18/5/24)

Ilya Yashin, serving 8 ½ years in prison for criticism of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, was placed in solitary confinement ahead of a scheduled visit by his parents. (RFE/RL, 22/5/24)

A St. Petersburg court extended pretrial detention by two months for Darya Kozyreva, an activist charged with repeatedly discrediting Russian armed forces. (RFE/RL, 22/5/24)

Chita resident A.Yu. Sulimova has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for allegedly sharing footage of Russian troop movements with Ukraine, state media reported, citing the local Federal Security Service (FSB). (The Moscow Times, 22/5/24)

A court in Saratov region sentenced Ilya Usoyan to three and a half years in prison for trying to persuade his friend to surrender to the Ukrainian army. (The Moscow Times, 22/5/24)

A military court in Novosibirsk sentenced teenager Vladimir Belkovich to 13 years in prison for distributing leaflets containing the symbol for the Free Russia Legion. (RFE/RL, 23/5/24)

Freedom of expression

A military court in Moscow has started the trial of theater director Yevgenia Berkovich and playwright Svetlana Petriichuk, charged with justifying terrorism. (RFE/RL, 20/5/24)

The YouTube online video-sharing platform has blocked four videos after a request from Russia's Roskomnadzor media watchdog, including one by OVD-Info, that contained information about ways to evade mobilization. (RFE/RL, 20/5/24)

Moscow City Court rejected an appeal by Vladimir Kara-Murza against a lower court's refusal to consider his lawsuit against Russia's Investigative Committee for failing to investigate his suspected poisoning. (RFE/RL, The Moscow Times, 21/5/24)

A court in St. Petersburg sentenced Russian physicist 77-year-old Anatoly Maslov on May 21 to 14 years in prison for treason. (RFE/RL, 21/5/24)

Leonid Volkov, a close ally of Alexei Navalny, has vowed to "never give up" fighting against Vladimir Putin despite recently being attacked outside his home. (The Guardian, 18/5/24)

Ethnic minorities

The Memorial human rights group on May 22 recognized Bashkir activist Fail Alsynov as a political prisoner. The 37-year-old was sentenced to four years in prison in January on a charge of inciting hatred. (RFE/RL, 22/5/24)

Activists in Russia's Republic of Tatarstan said on May 24 that police had detained Rafik Karimullin, the leader of the Azatliq (Liberty) youth organization, and the former leader of the banned All-Tatar Public Center (TIU), Zinnur Agliullin, after searching their homes. (RFE/RL, 24/5/24)