Rights in Russia
Week-ending 14 June 2024

Russia's War against Ukraine

Russia engaged in a "deliberate pattern" of starvation tactics during the 85-day siege of the Ukrainian city of Mariupol in early 2022, which amounted to a war crime, according to a fresh analysis submitted to the international criminal court. (The Guardian, 13/6/24)

U.S. national-security adviser Jake Sullivan said the US is aware of "new and credible reports" Russia listed abducted Ukrainian children on Russian adoption websites. (RFE/RL, 12/6/24)

A court in Russia's Urals region has sentenced Alexander Neustroev to three years in prison for insulting a child who wore a pro-war hat. (The Moscow Times, 10/6/24)

Russian lawyer and Kremlin critic Ilya Novikov has been sentenced in absentia to 8 1/5 years in prison on a charge of distributing 'fake news' about Russia's military. (RFE/RL, 11/6/24)

Andrei Yevseyev was sentenced to 10 days in jail for wearing a T-shirt with Ukrainian symbols and the slogan "Glory to Ukraine". (RFE/RL, 11/6/24)

Imprisoned blogger Vladislav Sinitsa was sentenced to an additional 2 1/2 years in prison on extremism charges just ahead of his scheduled release on July 1. (RFE/RL, 13/6/24)

Russian-Ukrainian activist Igor Pokusin imprisoned on charges of plotting treason died in custody earlier this week. (The Moscow Times, 14/6/24)

Russia's Southern District Military Court designated the Georgian Legion fighting for Ukraine as a "terrorist" organization. (RFE/RL, 14/6/24)

Political prisoners

Russian exiled media and activists held a telethon on Wednesday in support of the growing number of political prisoners inside Russia, raising tens of thousands of euros for those currently held behind bars. (The Moscow Times, 13/6/24)

Imprisoned Russian opposition politician Ilya Yashin, who is serving an 8 1/2-year prison term for his criticism of Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, says he will not agree to get exchanged for Russian citizens jailed in the Western countries. (RFE/RL, 12/6/24)

Tatar activist Rafis Kashapov is being investigated for repeated violations of the 'foreign agent' law. He earlier served a three-year prison term for criticizing Russia's occupation of Crimea and fled Russia when charged in absentia with justification of terrorism. (RFE/RL, 11/6/24)

The trial of Yevgenia Berkovich and Svetlana Petriichuk was adjourned after Berkovich fell ill. The court later ruled the trial will continue in camera after the prosecution said witnesses were being threatened. (RFE/RL, 10/6/24; The Moscow Times, 13/6/24)

Officials in Tomsk revoked the mandate of Ksenia Fadeyeva, the jailed former regional head of Alexei Navalny's headquarters, as a city council member. (The Moscow Times, 11/6/24)

Jailed American reporter Evan Gershkovich will soon stand trial in Ekaterinburg more than a year after his arrest on espionage charges. (The Guardian, 13/6/24)

A Moscow court postponed a hearing into imprisoned Kremlin critic Vladimir Kara-Murza's appeal after the authorities said he is no longer at the penitentiary. (RFE/RL, 13/6/24)

Chechnya

"Hundreds of women in Chechnya are desperate to escape domestic violence," said a Russian volunteer assisting Chechen women in fleeing the region. (The Guardian, 10/6/24)

A court in Russia's North Caucasus region of Chechnya rejected a request by imprisoned Zarema Musayeva for an early release over her state of health. (RFE/RL, 11/6/24)