

Rights in Russia

Week-ending 20 February 2026

Russia's War against Ukraine

Prosecutors in Moscow have asked Russia's Supreme Court to designate the Russian Anti-War Committee as a terrorist organization. ([The Moscow Times](#), 13/2/26)

Moscow courts sentenced exiled Russian-Georgian journalist Yekaterina Kotrikadze and Russian businessman Yevgeny Chichvarkin to years in prison in absentia for spreading "fakes" about Russia's invasion of Ukraine. ([The Moscow Times](#), 16/2/26)

Former operatives linked to the late Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin are helping Moscow recruit agents in Europe to carry out sabotage. ([The Moscow Times](#), 16/2/26)

Police in the republic of Sakha (Yakutia) reportedly arrested Viktor Savvinov, suspected of killing two people after being twice released to fight in Ukraine. ([The Moscow Times](#), 16/2/26)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said 2,000 Ukrainian children had been brought back from Russia and Russian-occupied land since the start of the war. ([The Moscow Times](#), 17/2/26)

A military court in Siberia sentenced two teenagers to prison for setting fire to a military helicopter on orders from Ukrainian intelligence services. ([The Moscow Times](#), 18/2/26)

Cash incentives for contract soldiers and multimillion-ruble payments for families of those killed have fueled disputes over inheritance, custody and alleged fraud. ([The Moscow Times](#), 18/2/26)

Foreign intelligence services can see Telegram correspondence sent by Moscow's troops in Ukraine, Russia's digital development minister claimed on Wednesday. ([The Moscow Times](#), 18/2/26)

More than 1,000 Kenyans have been lured to fight for Russia in its war with Ukraine, according to an intelligence report to the Kenyan parliament. ([The Guardian](#), 19/2/26)

Russian General Roman Demurchiev boasted about torturing, executing, and desecrating the bodies of Ukrainian military personnel, including prisoners of war. ([Meduza](#), 20/2/26)

Other news

Russia's state statistics agency Rosstat has stopped publishing data on the salaries and headcount of federal and municipal officials. ([The Moscow Times](#), 13/2/26)

Alexei Navalny was killed by dart frog poison administered by the Russian state two years ago, a multi-intelligence agency inquiry has found. ([The Guardian](#), 14/2/26)

The mother of Aleksei Navalny said European laboratory findings he was killed with a toxin confirmed "what we knew from the beginning.... He was murdered." ([RFE/RL](#), 16/2/26)

In a joint statement marking the second anniversary of Alexey Navalny's death, 15 countries called on Russia to release all political prisoners. ([Meduza](#), 16/2/26)

Moscow's permanent representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) argued that epibatidine and similar toxins "cannot be a subject of discussion within the OPCW" because they fall under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. ([Meduza](#), 17/2/26)

Police detained at least 19 people in cities across Russia as they held memorials to the late opposition activist Alexei Navalny on the second anniversary of his death. ([The Moscow Times](#), 17/2/26)

A Moscow judge has sentenced U.S. citizen Robert Mao to four years in a penal colony for attempting to smuggle firearm components out of the country. ([The Moscow Times](#), 17/2/26)

The State Duma passed a bill that would require internet and mobile providers to comply with orders from the FSB to shut down telecommunications services. ([The Moscow Times](#), 17/2/26)

Russia's Justice Ministry has designated the international successors of the Memorial human rights group as "undesirable" organizations. ([The Moscow Times](#), 18/2/26)

The Kremlin intends to maintain its official Telegram channel, even as Russia increases restrictions on the platform, spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday. ([Meduza](#), 19/2/26)

President Putin urged businesses to play a "key role" in meeting Russia's demographic goals by encouraging their staff to have larger families. ([The Moscow Times](#), 19/2/26)

School teachers in at least 10 Russian regions have faced delays in part of their salaries, an independent teachers' union told the pro-Kremlin daily Izvestia on Thursday, as widening fiscal deficits strain public finances. ([The Moscow Times](#), 19/2/26)

