

Rights in Russia

Week-ending 1 May 2026

Russia's War against Ukraine

"Resistance Imprisoned," a new exhibition at Strasbourg's Ritsch-Fisch Galerie dedicated to Russian and Ukrainian political prisoners held by the Kremlin. ([The Moscow Times](#), 24/4/26)

Boris Nadezhdin, the anti-war politician blocked from the 2024 presidential election, plans to take part in elections for the State Duma and Moscow's assembly. ([The Moscow Times](#), 24/4/26)

Russian State Duma speaker thanked North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for "the liberation of Kursk" by sending troops there to fight off Ukrainians. ([The Moscow Times](#), 26/4/26)

The Foreign Ministry said it added more people to its entry ban list of European officials, activists and academics in response to the EU's latest sanctions package. ([The Moscow Times](#), 27/4/26)

A St. Petersburg resident was barred from leaving Russia for Belarus after receiving a draft notice and then was turned away twice from international flights at Minsk airport. ([Meduza](#), 27/4/26)

President Putin signed laws extending benefits to families of servicemen killed in the war, seriously wounded Rosgvardiya personnel, and those returned from military service. ([Meduza](#), 27/4/26)

Poland released Russian archeologist Alexander Butyagin wanted in Ukraine for excavations in annexed Crimea. ([The Moscow Times](#), 28/4/26)

NoName057(16) claimed responsibility for waves of DDoS attacks on public institutions and private companies across Europe since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. ([The Moscow Times](#), 29/4/26)

Russian disinformation network Storm-1516 has been operating in the West since 2023, actively spreading fabricated stories and interfering in the political processes. ([Meduza](#), 29/4/26)

Russians who received a military conscription notice will no longer be allowed to travel through neighboring Belarus to avoid service. ([The Moscow Times](#), 29/4/26)

Russia's annual Victory Day parade will be held on 9 May without military hardware for the first time in almost two decades for fears of attack by Ukrainian drones. ([The Guardian](#), 29/4/26)

An explosion killed an army officer in what appeared to be an attempt to target Maj Gen Azatbek Omurbekov a senior commander known as the "Butcher of Bucha". ([The Guardian](#), 30/4/26)

The FSB claimed a Ukrainian handler instructed two individuals to "carry out intimidation campaigns at the homes of four senior officials of Roskomnadzor." ([The Moscow Times](#), 30/4/26)

Other news

Russian e-book platforms and online retailers have begun attaching warnings about drug-related content to works by classic Russian authors. ([The Moscow Times](#), 24/4/26)

The Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN) has been ranked as one of the country's top-performing state agencies for "client-centric" service. ([The Moscow Times](#), 27/4/26)

A court in Voronezh sentenced a 24-year-old local resident to one year of corrective labor for displaying prohibited symbols of the International Satanism Movement. ([Meduza](#), 27/4/26)

A court in St. Petersburg ruled in favor of a case brought by the Russian Justice Ministry to brand the Russian LGBT Network "extremist." ([The Moscow Times](#), 27/4/26)

Valery Fadeyev, head of the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights, condemned Russians for using VPNs saying it was "something unnatural." ([Meduza](#), 28/4/26)

Russian users downloaded VPN apps from Google Play 9.2 million times in March 2026 — 14 times more than in the same month a year earlier. ([Meduza](#), 28/4/26)

President Putin supports Kadyrov's bid for another term as head of Chechnya. ([Meduza](#), 29/4/26)

Roskomnadzor demanded Apple and Google remove iStories from app stores. ([Meduza](#), 29/4/26)

Police in Karachay-Cherkessia arrested at least 16 men on criminal charges of organizing the activities of an extremist organization for queer dating. ([Meduza](#), 30/4/26)

The State Duma plans to ban the supply of computing capacity to VPN services. ([Meduza](#), 30/4/26)

Ruslan Kutayev was suspended from the European advisory body for exiled Russian dissidents, for comments about LGBTQ+ people and so-called "honor killings." ([The Moscow Times](#), 30/4/26)

Eksmo CEO Yevgeny Kapyev and his colleagues were released after questioning about LGBTQ+ "propaganda" and "extremism." ([The Moscow Times](#), 30/4/26)

Russians have begun complaining on social media about being coerced into voting. ([Meduza](#), 30/4/26)

According to Memorial, at least 68 victims of political repression have died in custody over the last five years, including at least six since the start of 2026. ([Meduza](#), 30/4/26)

