

Radio engineer Kravtsov, sentenced to 14 years in prison for “state treason”, recognised as a political prisoner

The Memorial human rights centre has recognised radio engineer Gennady Kravtsov, sentenced to 14 years in prison by Moscow city court in a case on state treason, as a political prisoner. Kravtsov, who previously worked in the structures of the Main Intelligence Directorate, was convicted for supposedly revealing information that was a state secret when he sent his CV to a Swedish company.

The analysis of the circumstances and chronology of the case that has been conducted allows us to draw a conclusion about the political motivation of the case against Kravtsov. It was opened three years after the engineer sent his CV, already in the period of conducting an aggressive state policy aimed at searching for internal enemies, “spies” and “traitors to the Motherland”. For the duration of the investigation and trial the defence and the defendant himself were not allowed access to a number of secret documents which Kravtsov was accused of violating. Kravtsov’s former colleagues were on the commission that conducted the key analysis in the case, which could have influenced the objectivity of its results. The investigation and trial in this criminal case were accompanied by other procedural violations too – the first search in the engineer’s home was conducted without a court order, and an outsider was present in the closed proceedings – an FSB employee who tried to restrict Kravtsov from talking to his lawyer. Furthermore, the investigation and state prosecutors did not prove the fact of Kravtsov causing harm to the external security of the country in revealing secret information.

According to experts in the military-space field, the technical characteristics of a piece of space equipment that Kravtsov supposedly revealed were declassified by the construction bureau back in the early 2000s and published in the construction bureau’s catalogues. The equipment itself is no longer used by Russia.

The case against Gennady Kravtsov is a consequence of deliberate state policy and propaganda which has created the atmosphere of wartime in society and which is accompanied by searches for “fifth columnists” and “enemies of the state”. To maintain this atmosphere new criminal cases against “spies” and “traitors to the Motherland” are required, as a result of which the activity of the law-enforcement bodies and the security services are aimed at fabricating criminal cases, artificially criminalising the completely legal actions of citizens. Besides Kravtsov victims of this policy have been Sochi vendor Yekaterina Kharebava (sentenced to six years in prison in November 2014 on a charge of espionage) and mother of many children from Smolensk Svetlana Davydova (spent two weeks in a detention centre on a charge of state treason). Due to a deliberate confluence of circumstances lawyer Andrei Stebenev, who participated in the case against Davydova, was appointed as Kravtsov’s state defender at the beginning of his case.

Taking into account all the enumerated circumstances, Gennady Kravtsov has been recognised as a political prisoner. His criminal prosecution and imprisonment were applied exclusively in connection with the non-violent implementation of his freedom to express opinions and distribute information, guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in the absence of any fact of a crime committed by him. As a result of his criminal prosecution the right of the defendant to a fair legal investigation was violated. The term of Kravtsov’s imprisonment is clearly inappropriate for the factual circumstances of the criminal case.

Recognising a person as illegally prosecuted for political reasons does not mean that the Memorial human rights centre agrees with the views or statements of the political prisoner, or that it approves of their statements or actions.

More details about the case against Gennady Kravtsov can be read in the summary published on the Memorial human rights centre's [website](#).