

Ufa Opposition Publicists Dilmukhametov and Zagreev are Political Prisoners

In March and September 2015, opposition publicists from Bashkortostan Airat Dilmukhametov and Robert Zagreev were, one after another, convicted on charges of inciting terrorism (Part 1 of Art. 205.2 of the Criminal Code). Dilmukhametov was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in a strict regime colony, followed by a ban to engage in publicistic activities for two years. Zagreev received three years' imprisonment in a strict regime colony.

According to the investigation and trial, calls for terrorist activity were found in the article "Akhir Zaman" ("The End Time"), which was written and published by Airat Dilmukhametov in 2012 and spread under his request by Robert Zagreev in the Internet. "Akhir Zaman" is a religious-political treatise on the fate and the future of the Bashkir people. Publicists did not acknowledge their guilt.

An analysis of the circumstances and materials of the case allows us to see the political motivation of the case and the innocence of Dilmukhametov and Zagreev. Criminal proceedings against them were initiated only one and a half years after the publication of the article "Akhir Zaman." They are associated with social and political activities of Dilmukhametov and Zagreev. This is confirmed, among other, by the testimony of the Federal Security Service detective M. U. Planida that can be found in the indictment against Dilmukhametov. In particular, it is stated: "Dilmukhametov started [after his release] the active work on consolidation of various representatives of the Bashkir national movement."

The statements from the article "Akhir Zaman" cited by the Court do not contain incitement to terrorist activity, the concept and the components of which are clearly defined in Article 3 of the Federal Law FZ-35 dated March 6, 2006 "On Combating Terrorism." In addition, the Court refused to admit to the case file an alternative linguistic examination conducted by the Institute of Humanitarian Studies under the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Bashkortostan which indicates the absence of incitement to terrorist activities in the text of "Akhir Zaman." Moreover, the very fact of such examination at the expense of Dilmukhametov, the Court regarded as "circumstantial evidence of his guilt in committing a crime." Such an assessment, expressed in the sentence, clearly indicates the initially accusatory judicial process.

In a case against Robert Zagreev, the Moscow District Military Court ignored the testimony of several defense witnesses to prove his innocence regarding the creation and moderation of the Internet portal revinform.blogpost.ru where the text "Akhir Zaman" was published.

Moreover, in the cases against Zagreev and Dilmukhametov there are clear signs of partial falsification of evidence of their guilt. In particular, the inspection certificate of the webpage nabatr.livejournal.com with the text "Akhir Zaman," which was used by the investigation to prove the guilt of Dilmukhametov, was held on October 1, 2012. This is about nine months prior to the initiation of criminal proceedings, so, it is procedurally outside of this particular criminal case and cannot be used as evidence for it. The inspection report of the website revinform.blogpost.ru, which, according to witnesses, was not moderated by Zagreev, was held by non-accidental coincidence, exactly on the day of publication of the text of "Akhir Zaman" on this website. It happened after a year and a half after the first publication of this article, obviously, with the aim to hedge against the procedural irregularities in the preparation of the first inspection act.

"Memorial" recognizes Airat Dilmukhametov and Robert Zagreev as political prisoners for the following reasons.

Criminal prosecution and imprisonment were applied against them only due to their socio-political activity, freedom of which is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. Criminal proceedings were initiated despite the absence of corpus delicti and with the partial falsification of evidence. It violated the right of Zagreev and

Dilmukhametov to a fair trial, and the duration of imprisonment does not correspond to the actual circumstances of the case.

Recognition of a person as a political prisoner, or as a victim of a politically-motivated prosecution, does not mean that Memorial Human Rights Centre agrees with their views or statements, or approves of their statements or actions.

For more information about this case, see the website of Memorial Human Rights Centre ([Dilmukhametov](#), [Zagreev](#)).

PayPal – an e-wallet for giving help to all Russian political prisoners helppoliticalprisoners@gmail.com.