



***Human rights and political freedoms  
in Russia ahead of  
the 2018 presidential elections***

**MARINA AGALTSOVA,  
STRASBOURG,  
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# Content:

- Right to elect
- Right to be elected
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of assembly .
- Political prosecutions

# Right to Elect

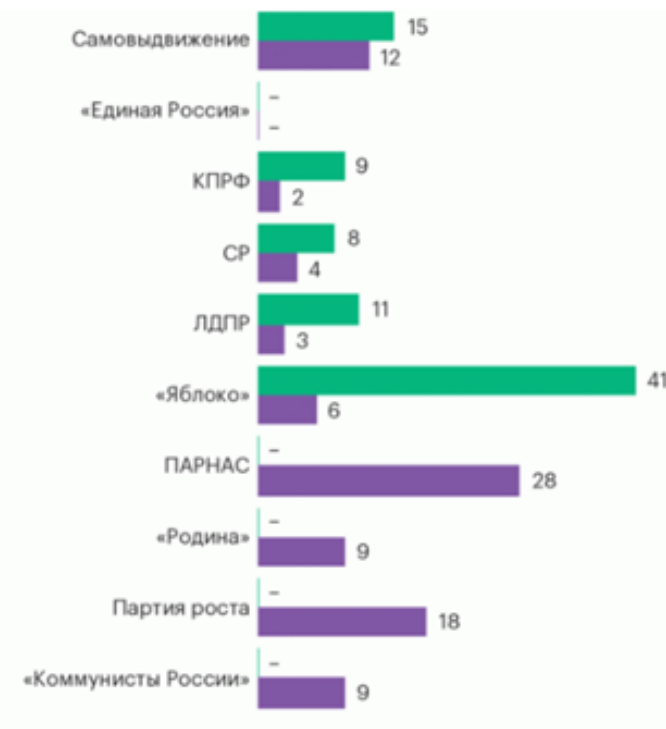
## Elections 2016 (elections to State Duma)

### Results:

- According to Russian Election Committee, 5.5 thousand complaints on election irregularities had been registered.
- In 9 districts the results were annulled.
- 32 criminal investigations were initiated (against 54 initiated criminal cases after 2011).

ECHR decision dated 30 May 2017, case ECHR Davydov and Others v. Russia

# Right to be Elected



Candidates not registered allegedly  
due to errors in the supporting documentation (%)

# Freedom of Speech

## Harsh laws:

Insulting religious sentiment among believers

Hate speech

Rehabilitation of Nazism (not the same as Holocaust denial)

# Insulting religious sentiment among believers

## Leading cases:

- Woman firing a cigarette from the church candle
- Man catching Pokemon in a church
- "Matilda"



# Hate speech

## Article 282 Russian Criminal Code:

- incitement of hatred and enmity, as well as the humiliation of a person or a group on the basis of gender, race, nationality, language, origin, religion, or because a person belongs to a social group
- Punishment: up to 5 years of imprisonment

- Widely used article (in 2010 - 650 crimes registered, in 2015 - 1186)
- Awkward enforcement: police, football fans, and authorities were considered as forming a social group deserving protection



- "Sharing" or "liking" on social media is enough for inciting hatred



# Breaking Territorial Integrity

## Article 280.1 Russian Criminal Code

- Calls to violate Russian territorial integrity
- Adopted in 2014 (after Crimean accession)
- Does not mention any recourse to violence
- Imprisonment up to 4 years

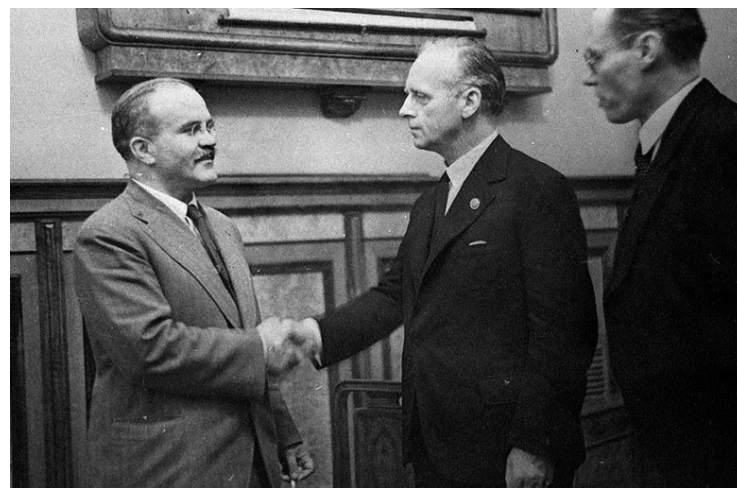


Ilmi Umerov was sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment in September 2017



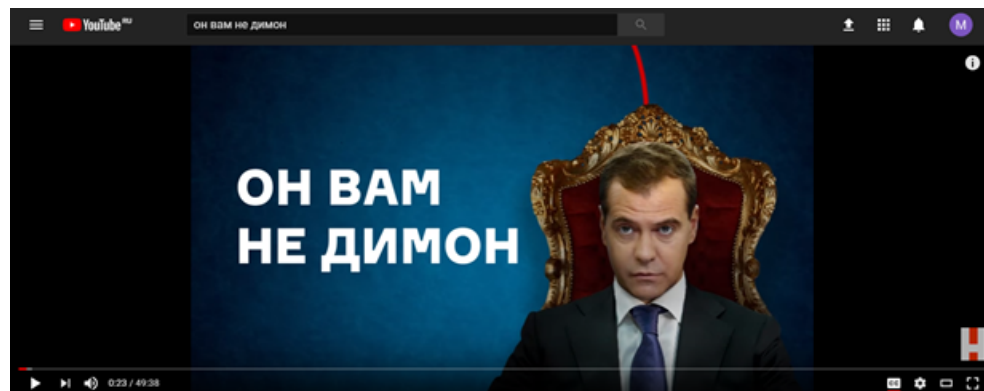
# Rehabilitation of Nazism

2 September 2016 the Russian Supreme Court issued a guilty verdict for a statement: "Communists and Germany jointly attacked Poland and started the Second World War; thus, the communism and the nazism collaborated"



# Freedom of Assembly

Meeting 26 March 2017



Этот материал выпущен МОО ПЦ "Мемориал", который внесен в реестр, предусмотренный ст. 13.1.10 ФЗ "Об НКО". Мы обжалуем это решение.

# Freedom of Assembly

## Meeting 26 March 2017

In Moscow, more than 20 thousand people went to the street Tverskaya

Around 1 thousand got arrested for taking part in the meeting

Memorial represented Memorial represented 212 people who were prosecuted for taking part in the demonstration. A complaint in relation to 12 people submitted to ECHR.



# Freedom of Assembly

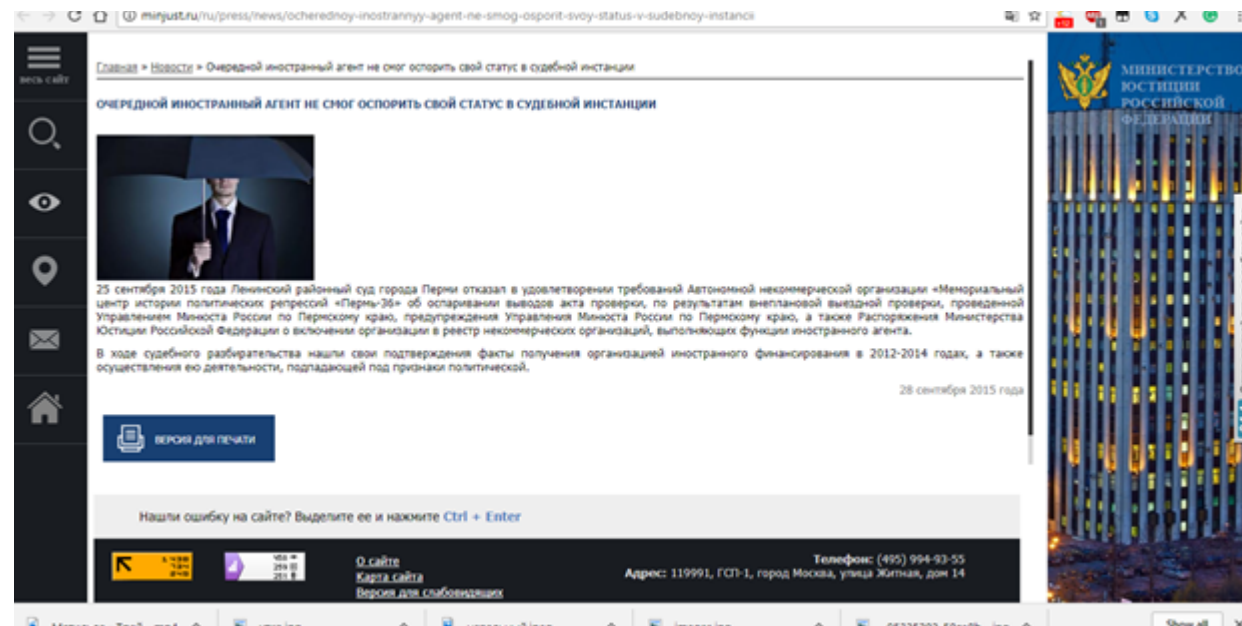
Meeting 12 June 2017 - around 800 arrested  
in Moscow and 1800 in Russia

Meeting 7 October 2017 - circa 2 in Moscow  
and 300 in Russia



# "Foreign Agent" NGOs

80 NGOs are in the list of foreign agents, like Memorial, Golos, Levada center

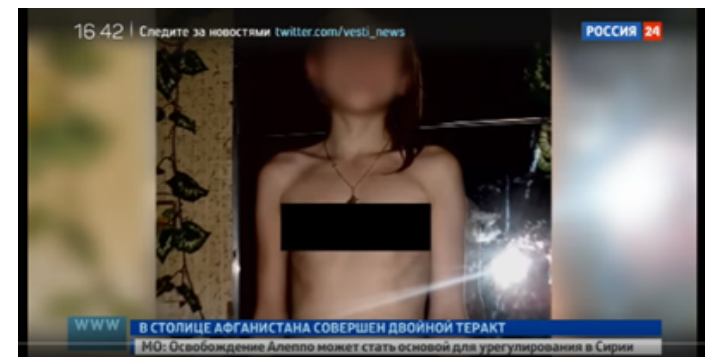
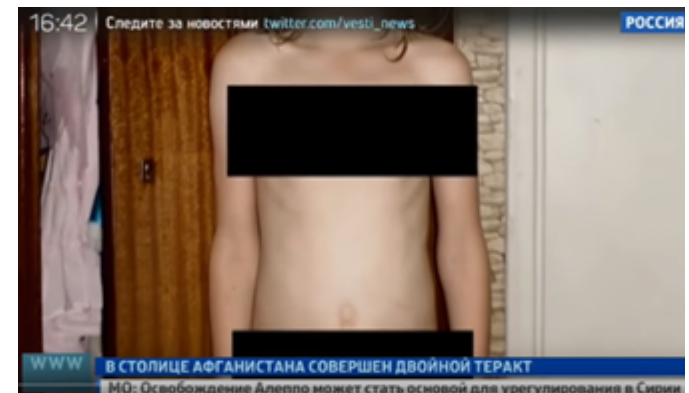


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# Political Prosecutions

## Yuriy Dmitriev's case

- Founder of the Sandarmokh Memorial Cemetery
- Prosecuted for making child pornography



**Thank you for attention**

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