

## **Memorial publishes lists of political prisoners in modern Russia**

As usual, on October 30, the Day of remembrance of the victims of political repressions, the Memorial Human Rights Center publishes its lists of political prisoners in modern Russia ([list 1](#), [list 2](#)).

These lists are obviously incomplete; in fact, they are just a reliable minimal estimate of the amplitude of political repression in the form of deprivation of freedom. They contain today 117 names. A year ago, there were 102 individuals in them. The real number of political prisoners and persons deprived of their freedom for political reasons, in today's Russia, is undoubtedly much larger.

Over the past year, 28 individuals from our lists of political prisoners were released to freedom. Of these, 15 people (**M.Bazarbaev, A.Bubeev, R.Valiyev, A.Dilmukhametov, R.Idelbayev, A.Izokaitis, D.Ishevsky, B.Kazikhanov, V.Nasyrov, I.Nepomnyashchikh, S.Nikiforov, D.Polyudova, L.Razvozhayev, A.Sutuga and S.Udaltsov**) fully served their terms; three individuals (**A.Nikonov, T.Osipova and L.Tikhonov**) were released on parole; another one (**A.Moroshkin**) was released after the application of compulsory measures of a medical nature. For four of them (**N.Sharina, R.Sokolovsky, I.Zhitenev, Y.Mukhin**), the measure of restraint in the form of deprivation of freedom was revoked; four others (**O.Sevastidi, A.Kesyan, M.Dzhandzhgava, A.Chiygoz**) were pardoned; sentences against the remaining two (**I.Dadin and I.Stenin**) were reversed.

Over the same period, 45 people joined the lists of political prisoners. Among them, those sentenced to various terms of imprisonment or held in pre-trial detention for having allegedly used violence against the police during a peaceful protest against corruption on March 26, 2017 – **Dmitry Borisov, Stanislav Zimovets, Dmitry Krepkin, Yuri Kulyi, Alexey Politkov, and Alexander Shpakov**.

The freedom of information dissemination is infringed upon by the criminal prosecution of **Dmitry Bogatov**, who is under house arrest.

Activist **Denis Safargali** was imprisoned, activist **Vladimir Yegorov** was sent to custody for publishing or reposting information in social media that did not call for violence but contained criticism of the Russian leadership. In Crimea, Ukrainian activist **Vladimir Balukh** was convicted on the false charges.

77-year-old scholar **Vladimir Lapygin, and Inga Tutisani**, an unemployed from the Krasnodar region, became victims of spy-mania designed to support the image of “a Russia encircled by enemies” created by state propaganda. Vladimir Lapygin was convicted of high treason for legal exchange of scientific information with his Chinese colleagues and sentenced to 7 years in prison; Inga Tutisani was sentenced to 6 years for two SMS sent to a Georgian citizen about Russian warships seen from a bus window in Abkhazia.

The head of the Karelian Memorial society, human rights defender Yuri Dmitriev who spent decades to commemorate the victims of Stalinist repression was taken into custody on a blatantly false charge.

In the interests of local authorities, Moscow activist Sergei Reznikov, who promoted the rights of local residents, was sentenced to 3 years in prison on the false charges of possession of drugs; Alexander Eivazov, who denounced violations in the judicial system, was taken into custody on an unreasonable charge of obstructing justice.

25 people were added to the list of those persecuted in connection with the realization of the right to freedom of religion. Most of them are Muslims, in particular, those accused of membership in the Hizb ut-Tahrir party or in the non-existent Nurjalar organization, yet, there is a representative of Jehovah's Witnesses, Dennis Christensen, who was taken into custody as well.

We call for solidarity with and support for political prisoners. As long as there are political prisoners in Russia, all forms of such support - letters, donations, information dissemination - are important and necessary.

There should be no political prisoners in Russia. All of them must be immediately released, and their cases must be reexamined by an independent tribunal based on the principles of fair trial.

See:

[List of Individuals Recognized as Political Prisoners by the Human Rights Centre Memorial and Persecuted in connection with the Realization of their Right to Freedom of Religion as of 29 October 2017](#)

[List of Individuals Recognized as Political Prisoners by the Memorial Human Rights Centre \(with the Exception of Those Persecuted in connection with the Realization of their Right to Freedom of Religion\) as of 29 October 2017](#)