

Sergei Udaltsov

After the screening of the propaganda film “Anatomy of a Protest-2” on the NTV channel, the left-wing activist Sergei Stanislavovich Udaltsov was accused of committing a crime under Part One of Art. 30 in conjunction with Part One of Art. 212 (“Preparation of actions aimed at organizing mass riots”) of the Russian Criminal Code. On 19 June 2013 Udaltsov was given the final version of the verdict, where he was charged under Part One of Art. 30 in conjunction with Part One of Art. 212 (“Preparation of actions aimed at organizing mass riots”) of the Russian Criminal Code and Part One of Art. 212 (“Organization of mass riots”). On 24 July 2014 S. Udaltsov was sentenced to 4 years and 6 months of imprisonment in a general-regime penal colony.

On 5 October 2012 the NTV channel screened a propaganda film “Anatomy of a Protest -2,” which claimed that activists and leaders of the Russian opposition are planning mass riots in Russia with guidance from foreign intelligence services. On 6 October Uriy Chaika, the Attorney General of the Russian Federation, ordered for the “facts” in the movie to be double-checked. On 8 October Sergei Udaltsov was called in for questioning by the Investigative Committee of the Russia Federation, and the questioning itself took place on 11 October.

On 17 October 2012 the central investigation department of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation initiated criminal proceedings under Part One of Art. 30 in conjunction with Part One of Art. 212 (“Preparation of actions aimed at organizing mass riots”) of the Russian Criminal Code against Sergei Udaltsov, Konstantin Lebedev, and Leonid Razvozhayev. The reasoning behind this was their alleged participation in a meeting in Minsk in the summer of 2012 with Givi Targomadze, the chair of Georgia’s parliament’s defense and security committee, Mikhail Iashvili, the Envoy of Georgia in Moldova, and their assistants. That same day the activists had searches conducted at their homes. During the trial the representatives from the NTV channel stated that the CD with the footage of the conversation between Udaltsov and Targomadze was given to them by an unknown individual on the street, who was allegedly of Georgian dissent.

On 26 October Sergei Udaltsov was charged under Part One of Art. 30 in conjunction with Part One of Art. 212 of the Russian Criminal Code. Simultaneously, he was given a measure of restraint in the form of a travel restriction. On 9 February 2013 the Basmaniy District Court altered the measure of restraint against Udaltsov to a house arrest.

On 19 June 2013 Udaltsov was given the final version of the verdict, where he was charged under Part One of Art. 30 in conjunction with Part One of Art. 212 (“Preparation of actions aimed at organizing mass riots”) of the Russian Criminal Code and Part One of Art. 212 (“Organization of mass riots”). On 24 July S. Udaltsov was sentenced to 4 years and 6 months of imprisonment in a general regime penal colony.

The charges against Udaltsov, Lebedev, and Razvozhayev are built on a propaganda TV program, which includes low quality footage of unknown origin with obvious signs of video editing. Givi Targomadze, who allegedly was recruiting the Russian opposition fighters, was involved earlier in similar scandals in Ukraine and Belarus, which damaged local opposition leaders. The decoding of the conversation in “Anatomy of a Protest-2” shows that the statements attributed to the accused do not show signs of preparation to commit some sort of illegal acts. This, in combination with the absurdity of the plan allegedly put together by Udaltsov and his supporters for the so-called “mass riots,” allows us to convincingly argue that the accused are innocent.

It is likely that the criminal case was instituted with the goal of putting pressure on one of the leaders of the Russian opposition, Sergei Udaltsov, and to discredit the opposition movement, specifically its left wing. Likely, the political motive of the persecution was due, in part, to the effort of the Investigative Committee of Russia to prove that there was foreign funding of the mass riots which took place on 6 May 2012. The organization has stated this both unofficially and officially from the very beginning of the investigation.

The recognition of an individual as a political prisoner does not imply that the “Memorial” Center agrees with their views and statements, nor does it imply that it approves of their statements or actions.