

## **Rights in Russia**

*July 2013*

**Killings** On 10/7 journalist [Akhmednabi Akhmednabiev](#) was shot dead in Makhachkala, Dagestan. On 23/7 environmentalist [Igor Sapatov](#) was shot dead in a village near Kazan.

**Pussy Riot** On 24/7 a Perm court rejected Maria Alekhina's request for [parole](#). On 26/7 the Supreme Court of Mordovia rejected Nadezhda Tolokonnikova's [parole](#) appeal.

**Yukos** On 5/7 Moscow City Court rejected a second [appeal](#) filed by Ombudsman Vladimir Lukin against the sentences of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev. On 16/7, the Investigative Committee questioned [Ella Pamfilova](#), ex-chair of the presidential human rights council, in a probe into an independent report on the Yukos trial. On 25/7 the [European Court of Human Rights](#) for a second time ruled against Russia for the treatment and trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev.

**Right of association** On 9/7 the [Prosecutor General](#) said 215 NGOs had refused to register as 'foreign agents'; on 10/7 he said there had been over 500 violations. On 19/7 the [Prosecutor General's Office](#) put forward amendments to the 'foreign agents' law defining political activity as 'activity aimed at gaining political power.' On 15/7 [Golos](#) lodged an appeal against the Justice Ministry's decision to suspend its operations. On 19/7 the tax inspectorate alleged [Golos](#) owed 2.28 million roubles in unpaid taxes. On 8/7 the Perm Pilorama Civic Forum was [cancelled](#) after the regional government cut funding. Perm magistrates courts dismissed prosecutions of three NGOs for failing to register as foreign agents: against [Perm Civic Chamber](#) (on 17/7); against [Grani Centre](#) (on 17/7); and against [Perm Human Rights Centre](#) (on 18/7). On 30/7 Perm region prosecutor's office [appealed](#) against these rulings. On 26/7 St. Petersburg prosecutors appealed a court ruling acquitting [Memorial Anti-Discrimination Centre](#) of failing to register as a foreign agent.

**LGBT rights** On 5/7 President Putin signed a law [banning the adoption](#) of children by same-sex couples. On 14/7 police [detained and charged](#) five opposition activists on Red Square for organizing an unsanctioned demonstration against anti-gay laws. On 23/7 Russian migration [authorities banned four Dutch nationals](#), detained on 21/7 for making a film about gay rights, from entering Russia for three years. On 29/7 Elena Mizulina, head of the State Duma's Committee on Family, Women and Children, and her first deputy, asked prosecutors to charge gay rights activist [Nikolai Alekseev](#) for his Twitter remarks on the "gay propaganda law" they considered rude and offensive.

**Aleksei Navalny** On 9/7 investigators seized documents at the offices of opposition leader [Aleksei Navalny](#). On 10/7 Navalny [registered](#) as a candidate in September's Moscow mayoral elections. On 18/7 [Navalny](#) was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to five years in prison in a trial many believe was politically motivated. On the night of 18-19/7, police [detained](#) between 156 and 254 people at protest rallies in Moscow and St. Petersburg against the jailing of Navalny. On 19/7 Navalny was freed from jail pending [appeal](#).

**Other cases** On 4/7 Memorial said in a statement that the so-called '[Bolotnaya trial](#)' was politically motivated. On 22/7 riot police officer Aleksandr Kazmin declined to testify in court against a protestor, Mikhail Kosenko, charged with attacking him at the [Bolotnaya](#) protest on 6 May 2012. On 11/7 a Moscow court ruled that the late [Sergei Magnitsky](#) and his employer, William Browder, were guilty of tax fraud. Browder was sentenced in absentia to nine years. On 26/7 [Interpol](#) rejected a second request by Russia for the arrest and extradition of Browder. On 24/7 the alleged killers of Russian journalist [Anna Politkovskaya](#), who claim they are innocent, went on trial in Moscow. Her family boycotted proceedings because they said the court had chosen the jury without asking them and rushed the trial date.