

Rights in Russia

March 2013

Pussy Riot case On 1/3 [Human Rights Watch](#) called on the Russian authorities to free imprisoned Pussy Riot members Nadia Tolokonnikova and Maria Alekhina. On 6/3 media said rights ombudsman Vladimir Lukin had [petitioned](#) Moscow City Court to quash the Pussy Riot verdict. On 14/3 the penal colony authorities said they [opposed](#) Tolokonnikova's [parole](#). On 20/3 Moscow City Court [published](#) its judgment of 15/3 rejecting Pussy Riot's appeal. On 21/3 it was reported prosecutors had found [violations](#) in Alekhina's conditions of detention.

Magnitsky case On 6/3 reports said the Interior Ministry is to bring criminal charges against U.S.-born investor Bill Browder, head of Hermitage Capital, for whom [Sergei Magnitsky](#) worked as a lawyer when he died in pre-trial detention in 2009. On 11/3 the posthumous trial of [Magnitsky](#) was postponed. His widow [Natalya Zharikova](#) called the trial 'an insult to his memory.' On 22/3 Moscow's Tverskoi district court began proceedings, [postponed](#) on 11/3, in the posthumous of [trial](#) of Magnitsky for tax evasion.

Leonid Razvozhayev case On 12/3, [Leonid Razvozhayev](#) was taken from pre-trial detention in Irkutsk and was moved via [Chelyabinsk](#) to [Moscow](#) where he was [reported](#) to be on 19/3. On 22/3 he was charged with making a [false accusation](#); on 29/3 a Moscow court extended his [pretrial detention](#) by four months.

Right of association On 6/3 Moscow prosecutors conducted a series of inspections of [NGOs](#) "in order to enforce existing legislation", also involving specialists from the Federal Tax Service and the Ministry of Justice. On 14/3 law enforcement agencies conducted inspections in [Krasnodar](#). Subsequent inspections took place on 21/3 of the [International Memorial Society](#) in [Moscow](#) and of the Foundation for Freedom of Information and Citizens' Watch in [St. Petersburg](#); on 25/3 of [Amnesty International](#), For Human Rights and Memorial Human Rights Centre in Moscow, and of Memorial Anti-Discrimination Centre in St. Petersburg; on 27/3 of [Human Rights Watch](#), Transparency International Russia and Civic Assistance in Moscow, and of [Memorial Research and Information Centre](#) in [St. Petersburg](#); on 28/3 of [Moscow Helsinki Group](#). On 27/3 Pavel Chikov (Agora) and Lev Ponomarev (For Human Rights) were summoned by prosecutors for questioning; on 29/3 three charges were brought against human rights defender [Lev Ponomarev](#) for alleged violations of administrative law. On 21/3 the [EU-Russia Civil Society Forum](#) and on 24/3 [Amnesty International](#), [Frontline Defenders](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#) expressed concern at the inspections. On 25/3 the Presidential [Council on Human Rights and Civil Society](#) called on Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika to explain the inspections. On 26/3 a [prosecutors' document](#) was published witnessing to the creation of a 'mobile group' for inspections. On 27/3 [Memorial Human Rights Centre](#) [asked](#) the Moscow Prosecutor's Office to explain the legal grounds for the inspection.

Right of assembly On 1/3 a Moscow court extended [pre-trial detention](#) for three activists detained at the Bolotnaya Square rally on 6/5/12. On 8/3 at least seven were [detained](#) at a rally in support of Pussy Riot. On 8/3 demonstrators were arrested in Moscow following an [alleged attack](#) on them by riot police. A man professing to be an ex-government operative said police had [organized](#) clashes at the 2012 Bolotnaya Square rally. On 20/3 Moscow city hall turned down a request by protesters to hold a [Strategy 31 rally](#) on 31/3.

Freedom of expression On 1/3 a district court in Arkhangelsk fined academic [Ivan Moseyev](#) 100,000 roubles for insulting the dignity of the Russian ethnic group. On 15/3 Russia's [federal media and telecoms watchdog](#) said Twitter has agreed to block access to accounts or posts that have been blacklisted. On 15/3 the [federal consumer protection agency](#) criticized Google and YouTube for a lack of cooperation on restricting access to the Internet.