

Rights in Russia

October 2013

Greenpeace: Arctic Sunrise During 2-3/10, [prosecutors](#) filed piracy [charges](#) against [all](#) 28 members of the crew and 2 freelance journalists. All were refused bail. On 3/10, [Mikhail Fedotov](#), chair of the Human Rights Council, said there was no basis for piracy charges. On 24/10 the Investigative Committee replaced charges of [piracy](#) with “hooliganism”. [Dmitry Litvinov](#) spent three days in a punishment cell for having letters to his family in his cell.

Right of assembly On 4/10 [Moscow](#) city authorities’ refused to allow an [Amnesty International](#) event on 7/10. On 6/10, four [LGBT activists](#) protesting against a bill to deprive LGBT persons of parental rights were arrested in Moscow; police in St. Petersburg arrested 67 [LGBT](#) protestors on 12/10; and confiscated a [rainbow flag](#) from LGBT activists on 27/10 during the Olympic torch relay. On 7/10 Moscow City Court prolonged until 6/2/14 pretrial detention of [Leonid Razvozzhaev](#). On 8/10, a court ruled Bolotnaya defendant [Mikhail Kosenko](#) be committed to a psychiatric hospital. On 27/10 thousands [marched](#) in Moscow in support of the Bolotnaya defendants. On 31/10 [police](#) detained participants in rallies for freedom of assembly in Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod.

Pussy Riot From 30/9 until 11/10, [Nadezhda Tolokonnikova](#) was not able to meet her [lawyers](#). On 14/10 she met her lawyer and released an open [letter](#). On 18/10 she restarted a [hunger strike](#). On 23/10 reports said she had been moved to another [prison](#). On 24/10 the Investigative Committee said it would not [investigate](#) her allegations of death threats by a prison official. On 15/10 the Supreme Court dismissed an [appeal](#) by Ekaterina Samutsevich against her conviction. On 18/10 [Maria Alekhina](#) withdrew a plea for early release.

Freedom of expression On 1/10 [amendments](#) to the Civil Code prohibiting the collection, possession, and distribution of personal information went into force. Dutch photojournalist Rob Hornstra has been [refused](#) a Russian visa. On 22/10 unknown attackers threw an incendiary device into the offices of [Moskovsky Komsomolets](#). On 31/10 a Moscow court ordered the [closure](#) of the news website Rosbalt.ru.

Aleksei Navalny On 16/10 an appeal court upheld [Aleksei Navalny](#)'s conviction but suspended his 5-year sentence. On 29/10 new charges of [fraud](#) were brought against Navalny and his brother. On 21/10 Moscow mayor [Sergei Sobyenin](#) said he had conferred with President Putin about allowing Navalny to participate in the mayoral election on 8/9.

Racism On 13/10 rioting broke out in [Biriulevo](#) in south Moscow following the killing on 10-11/10 of an ethnic Russian. On 14/10 police detained more than 1,200 [immigrants](#) at a market. On 16/10 an Uzbek [migrant](#) worker was found stabbed to death in Biriulevo.

European Court of Human Rights On 3/10 the ECtHR found [Russia](#) responsible for 18 deaths incurred during a military strike on a Chechen village in February 2000; the ECtHR also ruled against Russia over the 2007 arrest of [Garry Kasparov](#). On 21/10 the ECtHR ruled it was unable to determine the adequacy of an investigation into the 1940 [Katyn massacre](#). On 23/10 the Supreme Court upheld the life sentence for ex-Yukos official [Aleksei Pichugin](#). On 31/10 the ECtHR ruled the authorities are responsible for the [disappearances](#) of a driver of Civic Assistance Committee, Bulat Chilayev (2001), and Aslan Israilov (2006).

NGOs / NGO activists On 3/10 Krasnodar prosecutors confirmed charges against [Mikhail Savva](#). On 10/10 a Krasnodar court extended Savva’s pre-trial detention until 30/11/13. Savva said the charges against him have been [fabricated](#). On 17/10 St Petersburg’s commercial court [quashed](#) a fine levied against Bellona for alleged health violations. On 22/10 a court ruled [Ryazan Memorial](#) is not engaged in political activity. On 29/10 a [Kostroma](#) NGO suspended its activities because of fines under the ‘foreign agents’ law.