

Rights in Russia

September 2013

Electoral rights On 8/9 Aleksei Navalny came second in the vote for [Moscow mayor](#); official results gave Sergei Sobyenin over 50%, ensuring him a first round win. On 9/9 thousands [rallied](#) at Moscow's Bolotnaya Square in support of Navalny, who claimed the previous day's vote was rigged. On 12/9 Moscow City Court dismissed an application by Navalny to call off the [inauguration](#) of Sergei Sobyenin as Moscow mayor. On 19/9 the Constitutional Court said it would review a law banning [ex-convicts](#) from running for office.

Right of association Human Rights Ombudsman Vladimir Lukin lodged an [appeal](#) against the law on foreign agents with the Constitutional Court. Chair of the Council for Human Rights, Mikhail Fedotov, proposed expanding sources for financing [NGOs](#) by increasing donations from Russian business and international charitable organizations. Moscow city authorities donated an office to [For Human Rights](#), an NGO forcibly evicted from its previous home, free of charge for 49 years. On 6/9 US President [Obama](#) met Russian civil society activists while in St. Petersburg for the G20 summit. On 17/9 the Ministry of Justice ruled [Komi Memorial Human Rights Commission](#) was not a "foreign agent". On 18/9 a Duma committee recommended lawmakers pass a bill providing additional grounds for unscheduled checks of [NGOs](#). On 19/9 Sergei Nikitin, head of Amnesty International's Russia office said a Moscow court's dismissal of an appeal by [Golos](#) against a fine violated freedom of association.

North Caucasus On 1/9 the North Ossetian town of [Beslan](#) began three days' mourning on the ninth anniversary of the hostage taking that left 334 dead, including 186 children. On 9/9 President Putin called the activities of [international human rights organizations](#) in the North Caucasus "anti-Russian". On 11/9 authorities in [Sochi](#) began a campaign against illegal immigrants. On 16/9 three police officers were killed in [attacks](#) in Chechnya and Ingushetia.

Environment On 20/9 30 [Greenpeace](#) activists were detained when armed Russian security officers stormed the group's ship, [Arctic Sunrise](#). On 26/9 a Murmansk court detained 22 Greenpeace activists until 24/11 on the grounds they are suspected of [piracy](#). On 27/9, in protest at the detention of press photographer [Denis Sinyakov](#), a number of Russian media [websites](#) placed blank spaces on their main pages. On 27/9 [OSCE](#) Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović called for the release of two journalists detained pending a piracy investigation. On 30/9 Greenpeace lodged [appeals](#) against the detentions.

Right of assembly Local authorities prevented an annual [rally](#) in memory of victims of the Red Terror in St. Petersburg on 5/9. On 10/9 a Moscow court denied a request by [Mikhail Kosenko](#), a suspect in the 'Bolotnaya case' on remand, to attend his mother's funeral. On 21/9 supporters of opposition leader Aleksei Navalny said they were detained and beaten up by [police](#). On 25/9 ten LGBT-rights protesters, including Nikolai Alekseev, were [detained](#) while picketing the Olympic headquarters in Moscow. On 30/9 a Moscow district court prolonged the pretrial [detention](#) of alleged protest organizer Leonid Razvozzhaev until 21/10.

Pussy Riot Russia denied a visa to [Milo Rau](#), a Swiss director, who planned to shoot a film about Pussy Riot. On 23/9 Pussy Riot member [Nadezhda Tolokonnikova](#) went on hunger strike in protest at prison conditions and a death threat. On 24/9 Tolokonnikova was [moved](#) to an isolation cell. On 24/9 the [Presidential Human Rights Council](#) said a group of its members travelled to investigate [violations](#) in the colony holding Tolokonnikova. Member of the Presidential Human Rights Council Ilya Shchablinsky said [complaints](#) by Tolokonnikova had a basis in fact. On 29/9, lawyers acting for Tolokonnikova said they had not been able to contact her since she had been [hospitalized](#) on 27/9.