

Rights in Russia

Week-ending Friday 11 April 2014

- Right of association**
- Putin speech to FSB** In a speech on 8/4 President Putin called on the [FSB](#) to ensure Russia does not follow what he said was Ukraine's example by letting the West use local civil rights groups to foment unrest. ([The Moscow Times](#), 8/4)
- Foreign agent law upheld** On 8/4 Russia's [Constitutional Court](#) struck down a legal challenge to a law requiring civil society groups to register as "foreign agents" if they receive funding from abroad, but reduced the minimum fines imposed under the law. ([RIA Novosti](#), 8/4)
- Memorial ADC loses appeal** On 8/4 St. Petersburg City Court upheld a lower court ruling that recognized the [Memorial Anti-Discrimination Center](#) as a foreign agent, rejecting the group's appeal. ([The Moscow Times](#), 9/4)
- Freedom of expression**
- Pussy Riot** On 8/4 Human Rights Ombudsman Ella Pamfilova called for the full rehabilitation of those convicted in the [Pussy Riot](#) case, saying the women's punk prayer did not constitute a crime. ([HRO.org](#), 8/4)
- Internet** On 9/4 the State Duma's Culture Committee discussed a draft of a [new project](#) on cultural policy i.a. on the [Internet](#) that declared Russia's need to preserve its unique "state-civilization" and moral foundation in the face of globalization. ([Global Voices](#), 10/4)
- Andrei Zubov** On 11/4 the Kremlin's human rights council denounced as illegal the dismissal of a Andrei Zubov, a professor at [MGIMO](#), for writing an article criticizing Russia's actions in Ukraine and likening it to Germany in 1938. ([The Moscow Times](#), 11/4)
- Right of assembly**
- Detentions** On 6/4, six [protesters](#) on Manezhnaya Square supporting the prisoners in the Bolotnaya Square case by holding their hands in the air as if holding up placards were detained. ([HRO.org](#), 7/4)
- Chechnya**
- Ruslan Kutaev** On 8/4 Human Rights Watch called on the Russian authorities to immediately release [Ruslan Kutaev](#), arrested in Chechnya on 20/2 on politically motivated drug charges, and investigate allegations of police torture. ([Human Rights Watch](#), 8/4)
- Ukraine**
- Donetsk** On 7/4 protesters seized the regional government building in [Donetsk](#) and reportedly declared a "people's republic," calling for a referendum on secession from Ukraine by 11/5. ([BBC](#), 7/4)
- Luhansk** On 7/4 reports said protestors in [Luhansk](#) raided the arsenal in the security building. ([BBC](#), 7/4)
- PACE** On 10/4 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) passed a resolution to [deprive](#) the Russian delegation of voting rights in the body. ([RFE/RL](#), 10/4)