

Rights in Russia

Week-ending Friday 25 April 2014

- Denied internet access** On 22/4 Aleksei Navalny said he has been denied access to the [Internet](#) in an effort to prevent him from publicizing a letter from Yves Roche letter to prosecutors stating the company had not been defrauded or incurred any damages. ([RFE/RL](#), 24/4)
- Guilty of slander** On 22/4 a Moscow district court found Aleksei Navalny guilty of [slandering](#) Moscow City Duma Deputy Aleksei Lisovenko, who alleged that Navalny posted a message on his Twitter account referring to Lisovenko as a ‘drug addict’. ([RFE/RL](#), 22/4)
- House arrest extended** On 24/4 a Moscow court extended the [house arrest](#) of Aleksei Navalny by six months. ([RFE/RL](#), 24/4)
- Freedom of expression**
- Ella Pamfilova** On 21/4 rights ombudsman [Ella Pamfilova](#) criticized a bill that to impose new restrictions on the internet. ([HRO.org](#), 21/4)
- Duma approves new bill** On 22/4 the State Duma adopted amendments to counter-terrorism legislation, including a new law on “Internet users called bloggers” requiring [bloggers](#) with more than 3,000 daily visitors online to register with Roskomnadzor, the state body for media oversight. ([Human Rights Watch](#), 24/4)
- Pavel Durov** On 22/4 [Pavel Durov](#), founder of VKontakte announced he had left Russia after he was forced to sell his ownership shares in VK, which now rests in the hands of two pro-Kremlin oligarchs, Alisher Usmanov and Igor Sechin. ([RFE/RL](#), 24/4)
- Ukraine**
- Questions over Russia’s role** On 21/4 the U.S. State Department released photographs purportedly linking armed men who seized government buildings in Ukraine to [Russian special forces](#). President Putin has called claims of such Russian involvement ‘nonsense’. ([RFE/RL](#), 21/4)
- Simon Ostrovsky** On 21/4 pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine detained [Simon Ostrovsky](#), a reporter for the online news site Vice News. He was [freed](#) 24/4. ([The Moscow Times](#), 23/4; [RFE/RL](#), 24/4)
- Mustafa Dzhemilev** On 22/4 Crimean Tatar leader [Mustafa Dzhemilev](#) was told he was barred from entering Crimea for five years. ([RFE/RL](#), 22/4)
- Human Rights Council** **Vladimir Zhirinovskiy** On 21/4 members of the Presidential Council on Human Rights called for the prosecution of [Vladimir Zhirinovskiy](#) for having urged his staff to rape a pregnant journalist when speaking in the State Duma on 18/4. ([HRO.org](#), 21/4)
- Citizenship, migrant workers** **New laws on non-Russian citizens** On 21/4 it was reported President Putin had signed into force [laws](#) simplifying procedures for Russian speakers in the ex-USSR to obtain Russian citizenship and obliging migrant workers to know the Russian language. ([RFE/RL](#), 21/4)