

Rights in Russia

January 2014

Security operations On 2/1 Volgograd police [detained](#) more than 700 people following the [bombing](#) on 30/12. On 5/1 Khasavyurt resident [Magomed Ibragimov](#) was detained by law enforcement officers and has not been seen since. On 9/1 security services in [Stavropol](#) found several cars with dead bodies inside and explosives planted nearby. On 15/1 three members of the security forces and four gunmen were killed in [Dagestan](#). Security forces in Dagestan killed seven suspected militants on [17/1](#), three on [20/1](#), one on [21/1](#), and three on [25/1](#).

Sochi On 9/1 over 400 [Cossacks](#) arrived in [Sochi](#) to help police the Olympic Games. On 31/1 activists Semyon Simonov and Nikolai Levshits filed a [lawsuit](#) against the Olympics organizers after being barred from attending the Games. On 22/1 leading rights groups called for the quashing of the prison sentence imposed on environmentalist [Evgeny Vitishko](#).

Right of assembly Sergei Mokhnatkin, [detained](#) at a Moscow rally for freedom of assembly on [31/12](#), was remanded in custody until 1/3 on [2/1](#), and subsequently [charged](#) with [assaulting](#) two police officers at the rally. On 6/1 police [detained](#) two dozen protesting for the release of political prisoners on Manezh Square. Bolotnaya suspects Anastasia Rybachenko and Dmitry Altaichinov were amnestied on [10/1](#) and [16/1](#) respectively. On 19/1 about 400 demonstrators [marched](#) in Moscow to honour journalist Anastasia Baburova and lawyer Stanislav Markelov, shot dead on 19/1/09. On 22/1 the Moscow prosecutor called for prison terms of between five and six years for eight [Bolotnaya](#) defendants. On 16/1 Sergei Udaltsov was issued a final [indictment](#) for organizing riots in May 2012. On 28/1 Moscow City Court said the [trials](#) of Udaltsov and Leonid Razvozzhaev would start behind closed doors on 4/2, and on 31/1 [extended](#) Razvozzhaev's custody and Udaltsov's house arrest.

Freedom of expression On 9/1 a court sentenced former website editor [Aksana Panova](#) to a two-year ban on professional activity, a two-year suspended sentence and a fine. On 13/1 a Kurgan court declared Jehovah's Witnesses [brochures](#) were extremist. On 16/1 rights organizations criticized a five-year [ban](#) imposed on U.S. journalist [David Satter](#). On 16/1 an [Irkutsk](#) court ruled a man guilty of killing a journalist should not go to prison. On 22/1 the Duma passed a bill doubling the maximum penalty for [extremism](#) to four years in prison. On 28/1 Moscow University lecturer Vyacheslav Dmitriyev was questioned on suspicion of [extremism](#) after reposting online an article about regime change. On 30/1 prosecutors said they were examining [Dozhd TV](#) for possible extremism over a poll about World War II broadcast on 26/1. By 31/1 four large cable providers had stopped broadcasting [Dozhd](#).

LGBT rights On 13/1 some 27 Nobel laureates called on President Putin to repeal [repressive](#) homophobic legislation. On 27/1 Mayor of Sochi Anatoly Pakhomov told the BBC's Panorama programme there were no [gay people](#) in the city. On 31/1 reports said creator of an online [support](#) group for gay teenagers, faces a fine for 'gay propaganda.'

High profile cases On 23/1 the Supreme Court upheld the [judgment](#) obliging *Mikhail Khodorkovsky* to pay 17bn roubles in back taxes. On 24/1 [Platon Lebedev](#) was freed from prison. On 13/1 *Aleksei Navalny* rejected an investigators' [allegation](#) he breached a court order not to leave Moscow. On 15/1 a Moscow court upheld the [seizure](#) of Navalny's assets as part of an ongoing embezzlement case. On 21/1 the Justice Ministry refused to [register](#) Navalny's People's Alliance political party. On 13/1 investigators searched the home of [Murad Musayev](#), a lawyer acting for the defendants in the *Anna Politkovskaya* murder trial. On 14/1 Moscow City Court appointed a new [jury](#) in the trial.

Ombuds office On 23/1 President Putin approved the nomination of [Ella Pamfilova](#) for the post of Human Rights Ombudsman to replace Vladimir Lukin, whose term expires on 18/2.