

## Rights in Russia

April 2016

**Freedom of expression** On 1/4 authorities launched a hate-crime [investigation](#) against Kursk region lawmaker [Olga Li](#) for [social media](#) comments critical of President Putin. On 1/4 it was reported the authorities had suspended academic accreditation for the [European University at St Petersburg](#). On 14/4 the FSB raided the headquarters of [Mikhail Prokhorov's](#) Onexim investment group, possibly to put pressure on Prokhorov to sell RBC media holding. On 18/4 a Moscow court sentenced poet [Nikolai Bogoliubov](#) to a 200k rouble fine and one year's community service for inciting ethnic hatred. On 20/4 prosecutors opened a criminal case against artist [Petr Pavlensky](#), accused of setting fire to the FSB HQ. On 26/4 [Pavlensky](#) refused to allow vandalism charges against him to be dropped over a 2014 performance in St. Petersburg. On 26/4 prominent blogger [Anton Nosik](#) was charged with [extremism](#) for a post that called for 'wiping Syria off the face of the Earth.'

**Right of assembly** On 7/4 [Maksim Panfilov](#) was arrested and charged with rioting and violence against a police officer at the May 2012 Bolotnaya Square demonstration. On 26/4 the [European Court of Human Rights](#) ordered Russia to pay 35,000 Euros (\$40,000) to five jailed [protesters](#), all detained by police whilst picketing between 2006 to 2012.

**Right of association** On 4/4 French authorities granted Russian rights defender [Nadezhda Kutepova](#), head of the NGO Planet of Hopes, political asylum in France. On 27/4 a Kaliningrad court declared the [German-Russian House](#) cultural centre a 'foreign agent'. On 28/4 participants arriving at the award ceremony for young history students organised by [Memorial](#) were pelted with chemicals by nationalist activists. On 19/4 Saratov-based NGO [Sotsium](#) that assists HIV patients was designated a 'foreign agent'.

**Elections/Opposition politicians** On 6/4 the Prosecutor General's Office began an investigation into Aleksei Navalny's [Anti-Corruption Foundation](#). On 8/4 Moscow City Court [suspended proceedings](#) to collect more than 16m roubles (\$237,000) from Aleksei Navalny and other defendants in response to a ruling by the ECtHR. On 19/4 four candidates from the [Anti-Corruption Foundation](#) withdrew from the Barvikha municipal elections in protest against fraud. On 19/4 the [Constitutional Court](#) ruled Moscow may ignore part of a European Court of Human Rights judgment in a dispute on prisoner voting rights. On 20/4 the Central Electoral Commission ordered election results from [Barvikha](#) annulled. On 26/4 [Mikhail Konev](#), head of the Parnas youth wing, was reported kidnapped in Moscow. On 27/4 [Navalny](#) filed a lawsuit against state-owned media holding VGTRK and two of its employees for [portraying](#) him as a CIA agent.

**Dismissals/Appointments** On 15/4 Judge [Tatyana Leskina](#) of Saratov Regional Arbitration Court was fired after accepting a lawsuit calling for President Putin's dismissal. On 22/4 the State Duma elected ex-police general [Tatyana Moskalkova](#) human rights ombudswoman.

**Ukraine** On 1/4 at least 35 Crimean Tatars were [detained](#) by anti-extremism police at a café outside Simferopol. On 6/4 [Nadia Savchenko](#), sentenced to 22 years in prison, started a 'dry' hunger strike and demanded her immediate return to Ukraine. On 13/4 Crimean Prosecutor General suspended the Crimean Tatars' [Mejlis](#) 'in order to prevent violations of federal law.' On 18/4 the Justice Ministry suspended the [Mejlis](#) for alleged 'extremist activities.' On 26/4 the Supreme Court of Crimea designated the [Mejlis](#) a terrorist organization and banned it in Russia. On 19/4 prosecutors in Crimea opened a criminal investigation into journalist [Mykola Semena](#) from the Ukrainian Radio Svoboda service on charges of [inciting separatism](#). On 19/4 OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović expressed concern about the intimidation of [Semena](#).