

## Rights in Russia

Week-ending Friday 17 March 2017

### **Freedom of expression**

- Oksana Sevastidi* On 12/3 Oksana Sevastidi, [pardoned](#) by President Putin on 7/3, was released. On 15/3 the Supreme Court upheld her conviction for high treason. (RFE/RL, [12/3](#), [15/3](#); [The Moscow Times](#), 15/3)
- Ruslan Sokolovsky* On 13/3 Ruslan Sokolovsky pleaded not guilty to charges of religious hatred and hooliganism for playing a game on his phone in a church. ([RFE/RL](#) / [The Moscow Times](#), 13/3)
- Yuriy Baranchyk* On 14/3 editor of Regnum news agency, Belarusian citizen Yuriy Baranchyk, was detained at Minsk's request. ([RFE/RL](#), 15/3)
- Trials* On 15/3 the State Duma approved legislation restricting live broadcasts of open trials. ([RFE/RL](#), 15/3)
- Mirror websites* On 15/3 a State Duma committee recommended adoption of a bill on blocking mirror websites. ([RAPSI](#), 15/3)
- Evgeny Khamaganov* On 16/3 journalist Evgeny Khamaganov died in unexplained circumstances in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia. ([RFE/RL](#), 17/3)
- Dmitry Semenov* On 16/3 a Cheboksary court found activist Dmitry Semenov guilty of "distribution of extremist materials." ([RFE/RL](#), 17/3)
- US broadcasters* On 17/3 the Duma ordered a probe into whether RFE/RL, VoA, and CNN are in compliance with Russian laws. ([RFE/RL](#), 17/3)

### **Freedom of conscience**

- Jehovah's Witnesses* On 16/3 the justice ministry [asked](#) the Supreme Court to ban the Jehovah's Witnesses for "extremism". ([BBC](#), 17/3)

### **Right of association**

- Levada Centre* On 14/3 Levada Centre lost an appeal against "foreign agent" designation. ([The Moscow Times](#), 14/3)
- Hizb-ut Tahrir* On 14/3 the FSB in Tatarstan detained 15 alleged members of the banned Hizb ut-Tahrir organization. ([RFE/RL](#), 14/3)

### **Torture**

- Oleg Orlov* On 14/3 the [ECtHR](#) ruled Russia was behind a 2007 attack on rights defender Oleg Orlov and three journalists. ([RFE/RL](#), 17/3)
- Arsan Mukayev* On 14/3 the ECtHR awarded €50,000 compensation for torture to imprisoned Chechen militant Arsan Mukayev. ([RAPSI](#), 14/3)

### **Ukraine**

- Nariman Dzhelyal* On 13/3 Nariman Dzhelyal, a deputy chair of the Mejlis, was questioned by anti-extremism police in Simferopol about a 2016 interview he gave to a Ukrainian TV. ([RFE/RL](#), 13/3)
- Emil Mukhteremov* On 15/3 Emil Mukhteremov, a Crimean Tatar, alleged FSB officers threatened to kill him if he refused to testify against six men. ([Human Rights in Ukraine](#), 16/3)
- OHCHR* On 15/3 the OHCHR [reported](#) almost 10,000 people killed in the conflict in eastern Ukraine. ([RFE/RL](#), 15/3)
- OSCE* On 17/3 the OSCE prolonged its monitoring mission in Ukraine until March 2018. ([RFE/RL](#), 17/3)