

Anti-War Community of Russians in Bremen

We are a community of anti-war Russians based in Bremen. Our activities include organizing letter-writing evenings for political prisoners, rallies, debates, meetings, and cultural and educational events.

Our Mission

End Putin's War. We are committed to stopping Russia's military aggression and securing peace — on Ukraine's terms. We stand with Ukraine in its fight for freedom and justice.

Support the Resistance. Inside Russia, brave people risk everything to resist Putin's dictatorship. Their acts of civic courage go unnoticed — we work to make their voices heard.

Help Political Prisoners. Thousands suffer in Russian jails and penal colonies, enduring torture, forced labor, and inhumane treatment. Only through their attorneys do we learn about the mistreatment happening to them. We raise money to ensure every political prisoner has an attorney and receives critical aid, including food, medicine, and warm clothing.

Expose Putin's Crimes. His war, his repression, his terror — none of it will remain hidden. The world must know, and we will make sure it does.

Veranstalter:innen:

Antikriegskollektiv der
Russlander*innen in Bremen

Rosa-Luxemburg-Initiative –
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Documentary film

NAWALNY

by Daniel Roher



Alexei Navalny was a political prisoner killed by the Russian authorities in prison. And his case exemplifies the ongoing repressions against dissidents by the Russian authorities. The number of political prisoners in Russia is steadily increasing each year. Human rights organizations estimate that more than 3,500 people are currently being persecuted for political reasons in Russia, with over 1,500 of them imprisoned.

In this discussion, we will explore how the authorities employ repression against citizens. What is happening to the protest movement inside Russia? What repressive practices are being used? What methods of defense exist, and what role does international solidarity play in the fight for human rights?

We have invited two speakers to share their insights. The main speaker is Olesya Krivtsova, a former political prisoner.

In 2022, while a second-year university student, Olesya faced persecution after being charged with “discrediting the army” and “justifying terrorism.” These charges stemmed from her distribution of anti-war leaflets and vocal opposition to the war. She faced a potential prison sentence of up to 10 years.

The second speaker is Denis Shedov, an analyst with the human rights organization OVD-Info, a member of the council of the Memorial Human Rights Center, and a lawyer. In 2022, he defended Alexei Gorinov, a municipal deputy from Moscow. Gorinov was the first person convicted under the law on “fakes” about Russia's army. In July 2022, he was sentenced to seven years in prison.



Why Writing Letters to Political Prisoners Is So Important



Protective Function

The closed nature of detention facilities often fosters abuse and arbitrariness. However, letters, packages, and support from relatives can improve a prisoner's treatment by deterring illegal actions through the threat of public exposure.

To support each political prisoner, a lawyer is needed, and travel expenses to the place of detention must be covered. Sometimes the journey takes more than one day, so accommodation is also required. Donations help cover these costs

Informational Support

Prisoners often feel isolated from the world. Letters serve as a vital link to life beyond prison walls. Without them, prisoners are left with state-controlled television as their only source of information.

Psychological Support

Letters help prisoners in colonies and pre-trial detention centers cope with fear, loneliness, and depression. They provide emotional support in the face of arbitrariness, lack of personal space, and limited resources to maintain morale.

PrisonMail.online

The service is designed to send electronic messages to people in prisons.



The current regime in Russia is a repressive system where law enforcement and the judiciary have become tools of punitive politics, fully controlled by the authorities. The suppression of dissent, intimidation of civil society, and destruction of the opposition have become routine.

Here, we present the names and cases of just some individuals, including Ukrainian citizens, who have fallen victim to political repression in modern Russia.

Natalia Vlasova

Donetsk region, Ukraine, born in 1981

Sentenced to 18 years under six articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

Igor Paskar

Volgograd, born in 1976
Sentenced to 8 years and 6 months

Convicted of a terrorist act for throwing a Molotov cocktail at the FSB building in the Krasnodar region, which resulted in a doormat near the entrance catching fire. He also burned a banner displaying the letter "Z."

Ksenia Karelina (Havana)

Yekaterinburg–Los Angeles, born in 1991
Sentenced to 12 years

In January 2024, she traveled to Russia to visit her parents. At the airport, security forces forced her to unlock her phone and discovered a transfer of \$51.80 to the Ukrainian organization Razom for Ukraine, which provides humanitarian aid to medics, hospitals, and vulnerable groups.

Andrii Petkevych

Dnipro, Ukraine

Sentenced to 16 years on charges of espionage.

Anna Bazhutova

Moscow, born in 1993
Sentenced to 5 years and 6 months

She was prosecuted for a Twitch stream in which she read stories from Bucha residents and wrote on a cardboard sign that Russian soldiers had killed 300 people in Bucha

Margarita Kharenko

Melitopol, Ukraine, born in 1989

A gym employee in Melitopol, she also worked with a local volunteer organization. Abducted in 2023 and sentenced to 20 years.

Mikhail Simonov

Moscow
Sentenced to 6 years and 6 months

Convicted for social media posts about the bombings of Kyiv and Mariupol, including phrases: "Killing children and women, we sing songs on TV. We, Russia, have become godless. Forgive us, Lord!" and "Russian pilots are bombing children"

Irina Gorobtsova

Kherson, Ukraine
Sentenced to 10 years

An activist and IT specialist, she was abducted by Russian forces in 2022. During the Russian occupation of Kherson, she actively helped local residents by delivering food and medicine and openly opposing the occupation.

Where to Learn More About Political Prisoners

en.ovdinfo.org (English)

OVD-Info is an independent media and human rights group that monitors and fights repression in Russia.

en.zona.media (English)

An online publication covering justice, the Russian penitentiary system, human rights violations, and social and political processes in Russia.

www.memopzk.org (Russian)

Support for Political Prisoners. Memorial is an independent human rights project that collects, researches, and systematizes information about politically motivated prosecutions and provides assistance to victims.

mediazonaby.com (Russian)

The Belarusian version of the publication, focusing on the clash between individuals and the state.

donations

Solidarity zone

A grassroots initiative offering support to those persecuted for their anti-war actions.



Проездом (Proezdnom)

A volunteer community dedicated to helping Ukrainian refugees who have been forced to flee to Russia find safety and stability.

