

Physicists and mathematicians subjected to political imprisonment in Russia

This page contains information on scientists who were imprisoned in Russia for political reasons and have not been released. The list below is definitely not exhaustive and for now it is only composed of mathematicians and physicists. If you know someone else, please leave a comment with their name.

The case of Vladimir Mironov

Vladimir Mironov, a postgraduate student at Alferov University, was arrested in February 2023 for vandalizing a military enlistment office in St. Petersburg. He is accused of writing anti-war slogans such as "No to war" and "Stop killing" on the building's walls. He was sentenced to four years in a penal colony, later reduced by eight months on appeal.

Mironov served his time in Penal Colony No. 5 "Metallostroy." He was released after completing his sentence, partially admitting his guilt and compensating for the damages.

<https://memopzk.org/figurant/mironov-vladimir-nikolaevich/>

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/07/02/anti-war-university-student-in-st-petersburg-released-from-prison-a89643>

The case of Mikhail V. Volkov

The famous mathematician and professor of Ural Federal University was suddenly fired in February, 2025. In April 2025 his place was searched and he was charged under the criminal article on financing an extremist organization. On April 2016 he was included in the list of “terrorists and extremists” of Rosfinmonitoring.. His son Leonid Volkov, a politician and associate of Alexei Navalny, is in forced exile.

<https://meduza.io/en/feature/2025/04/04/the-criminal-case-taking-shape-against-opposition-politician-leonid-volkov-s-father>

<https://www.imu.org.il/volkov> Letter from Israeli mathematicians in support of Professor Mikhail V. Volkov

Statement of the French Mathematical Society

<https://smf.emath.fr/actualites-smf/inquietudes-autour-de-mikhail-volkov>

The case of Mikhail (Misha) Verbitsky

On November 21, 2024 a criminal case was opened in Russia against mathematician Mikhail Verbitsky (also known as blogger Misha Verbitsky) for calls for terrorism. January 10, 2025 Mikhail Verbitsky was added to the register of “terrorists and extremists” of Rosfinmonitoring. Mikhail Verbitsky left Russia in 2015 and **lives abroad.**

On June 27, 2025, a protocol on "discrediting" the army was drawn up against the mathematician Mikhail Verbitsky, who had been arrested in absentia in connection with the case of justifying terrorism.

<https://t-invariant.org/2024/11/mikhail-verbitsky/>

The case of Zahar Zaripov

The teacher of mathematics and computer science, from the city of Sovetskaya Gavan, Khabarovsk Krai, was arrested in January 2023. He is accused of publishing political posts. He was sentenced to 5 years in penal colony. In prison, Zakhar Zaripov fell ill with cancer. He was diagnosed with stage 4 parotid gland cancer. On November 26, 2024, his five-year sentence was commuted to a fine and he was released.

<https://memopzk.org/figurant/zaripov-zahar-vladimirovich/>

The case of Pavel Sinelnikov

A student at the mathematics department of a university in the city of Barnaul. Accused of participating in the democratic movement "Vesna". Arrested in June 2023.

On July 17, 2025, Pavel Sinelnikov was sent to solitary confinement. The young man was placed in stricter conditions at Detention Center No. 1 for 15 days.

https://t.me/free_pavel_sinelnikov,

<https://memopzk.org/figurant/sinelnikov-pavel-nikolaevich/>

<https://www.sibreal.org/a/nachinaetsya-sud-po-delu-vesny-/33159873.html>

The case of Dmitry Bogmut

The technician from the St. Petersburg Institute of Nuclear Physics was arrested in April 2024. He was accused of publishing antiwar posts. In November 2024, it became known that in prison, Dmitry lost 20 kg of weight and began to weigh 50 kg with a height of 182 cm. According to reports from his support group, he is not receiving the necessary medical care.

In July 2025, the authorities began exerting pressure on Dmitry Bogmut's support group, primarily targeting those who were bringing him parcels and attending court hearings on his case. The pressure they faced included being labeled as "traitors" and "pro-Ukrainian activists" by the state agency, with their names and personal details being published. As a result, they began receiving threats. It was also previously reported that listeners were unlawfully prevented from attending the hearings by having their seats occupied by people in camouflage.

https://t.me/free_bogmut/12

<https://ground.news/article/a-court-in-st-petersburg-arrested-a-technician-from-the-kurchatov-institute-in-the-case-of-military-fakes>

The case of Artem Khoroshilov

A candidate of physical and mathematical sciences was detained by the FSB on charges of hacking on February 1, 2024. He is accused of attacks on critical infrastructure of the Russian Federation.

<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/6481054>

The case of Vladislav Galkin

A physicist from Novosibirsk was placed under house arrest before 15, December 2023. The exact date of arrest is unknown.

<https://www.newsweek.com/putin-arrests-hypersonic-rock-et-scientists-treason-1853214>

The case of Sergei Abramov

A physicist and mathematician was placed under house arrest on May 12, 2023.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/russian-scientist-abramov-house-arrest-/32408839.html>

The case of Valery Zvegintsev

A physicist was arrested in April 2023.

<https://meduza.io/en/news/2023/05/16/open-letter-reveals-fourth-novosibirsk-scientist-hit-with-treason-charges-in-last-year>

The case of Alexander Shiplyuk

A physicist was arrested in July, 2022. He was sentenced to 15 years of penal colony for “treason”.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandr_Shiplyuk

The case of Anatoly Maslov

A physicist was arrested on 28th of June 2022. On May 21, 2024 he was sentenced to 14 years in prison.

<https://www.euronews.com/2022/07/02/uk-russia-scientist-treason>

The case of Konstantin Seleznev

A pensioner, a former teacher of mathematics and physics, was arrested on October 3, 2023 and accused of spreading fake news about the actions of the Russian army in Ukraine. The reason was his open letter to the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation about the UN report concerning the crimes of the Russian military.

<https://zona.media/news/2023/10/04/seleznev>

The case of Dmitry Ivanov

A mathematics student was arrested on June 2, 2022. He was sentenced to 8.5 years in prison on March 7, 2023.

<https://caseazatmiftakhov.org/2023/03/07/dmitry-ivanov-a-mathematics-student-at-the-moscow-state-university-sentenced-to-8-5-years-in-prison-for-social-media-posts-against-the-war-in-ukraine/>

The case of Anatoly Kuranov

A physicist was arrested in 2021 and sentenced to 7 years in prison at 2024.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/russia-arrests-hypersonics-scientist-suspected-of-treason-405103>

The case of Valery Golubkin

A physicist has been detained since December, 2020. On June 26, 2023 he was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-arrests-hypersonic-aircraft-scientist-for-high-treason/30983246.html>

The case of Alexander Lukanin

A physicist has been detained since September 30, 2020. On October 11, 2022, he was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/10/01/russian-scientist-accused-of-passing-tech-secrets-to-china-reports-a71614>

The case of Viktor Korolev

A researcher was arrested in May, 2020. In February, 2022, a physicist was sentenced to twelve years in prison.

<https://generico.ru/2022/02/07/a-resident-of-vladivostok-was-sentenced-to-12-years-in-prison-in-the-case-of-treason/>

The case of Alexei Vorobyov

A physicist was arrested in February, 2019. In April, 2021, a scientist was sentenced to twenty years in prison.

<https://tass.com/emergencies/1282187>

The case of Azat Miftakhov

A mathematician has been detained since February 1, 2019. On January 18, 2021, Azat was sentenced to six years in prison. Just after release he was arrested again and accused of justifying terrorism in conversations with other prisoners. On March 28, 2024 Azat was sentenced to 4 years in prison.

<https://caseazatmiftakhov.org/>

The case of Alexey Temirev

A physicist has been detained since July, 2018. In February, 2020, he was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/02/13/russian-scientist-sentenced-to-75-years-for-treason-a69277>

The case of Sergei Meshcheryakov

A researcher has been under house arrest since July, 2015.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/russian-scientist-77-under-house-arrest-on-treason-charges/30056180.html>

The case of Svyatoslav Bobyshev

Svyatoslav Bobyshev was arrested in 2010. In 2012 he was sentenced to twelve years in prison.

https://memohrc.org/en/news_old/svyatoslav-bobyshev-political-prisoner

The case of Dmitry Kolker

On 30th of June, 2022, a scientist was arrested for an alleged disclosure of state secret information to China. Kolker, suffering from the last stage of cancer, was taken by the FSB directly from the hospital. He died in prison on 3th of July.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/07/01/siberian-scientist-battling-late-stage-cancer-arrested-in-hospital-for-treason-reports-a78172> **RIP**

The case of Valery Mitko

A physicist has been under house arrest since February, 2020. He died in prison in October 2022.

<https://meduza.io/en/feature/2020/06/16/another-septuagenarian-spy>

RIP

The case of Roman Kovalev

A physicist has been detained since June, 2019. In June, 2020, he was sentenced to seven years in prison. He was released in the first days of April, 2022 and died 2 weeks after.

https://english.pravda.ru/news/society/144689-russian_scientist_hypersonic/ **RIP**

The case of Victor Kudryavzev

Physicist Victor Kudryavzev was arrested in July, 2018 and released in September, 2019 due to cancer. He died in April, 2021.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/04/30/leading-russian-physicist-charged-with-treason-dies-of-cancer-a73788> **RIP**

The case of Evgeny Afanasyev

Yevgeny Afanasyev was arrested in 2010 and in 2012 he was sentenced to a term of twelve and a half years. He died in prison in April 2015.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imprisonment_of_Evgeny_Afanasyev_and_Svyatoslav_Bobyshev **RIP**