

# Human rights in Russian Federation

**OVD-Info** is an independent human rights media project aimed at monitoring cases of political persecution and violations of basic human rights in Russia.

The submissions we made focus on addressing violations of freedoms of assembly and association and freedom of expression.

Daria Korolenko,  
[daria.korolenko@ovdinfo.org](mailto:daria.korolenko@ovdinfo.org)

# Issue 1: Freedom of assembly and association



None of the accepted recommendations were implemented and the situation gradually worsened.

In 2019 – 2022:

**>50,000**

detentions of peaceful assembly  
participants

**408**

people have been criminally  
prosecuted for participation in  
peaceful assemblies

**591**

foreign agents and  
undesirable organisations

- The majority of CSOs and independent media outlets were forced out of the country or shut down, with employees facing the threat of criminal prosecution;
- Facial recognition technologies have been arbitrarily used to identify and prosecute protesters, excessive force was used by police during major rallies;
- The authorities used forcible liquidation to suppress civil society, dissolving several human rights NGOs, including Memorial, Moscow Helsinki Group, SOVA Center and Sphere.

# Issue 1: Freedom of assembly and association



We recommended the Russian Federation to:

- Revise or repeal legislation that hinders the freedom of association, including the laws on “foreign agents”, “undesirable organizations” and “extremism”;
- Release all people unjustly persecuted for exercising their freedom of association and repeal the decisions to liquidate prominent civil society organizations;
- Exclude the possibility of criminal and administrative liability for participation in peaceful assemblies;
- Stop the practice of mass detentions at peaceful assemblies and detentions with the use of facial recognition systems;
- Avoid using excessive force against protesters and effectively investigate the cases of police violence.

# Issue 2: Freedom of expression and anti-war prosecutions



Russia accepted numerous recommendations to guarantee everyone freedom of expression. Despite that, the situation gradually worsened.

**6413**

cases of persecution of  
media workers and media  
outlets in 2019-2022

**12 200**

websites blocked because  
of military censorship

**316**

of them were media  
outlets

- Any dissent to the government's actions is subject to various criminal or administrative charges;
- Technologies for monitoring, controlling and shutting down social networks have evolved and are widely used;
- Various laws related to extremism and terrorism have been expanded with vague wording and arbitrary enforcement.

# Issue 2: Freedom of expression and anti-war prosecutions



After 24 February 2022, due to military censorship, the freedom of expression was even more tightened. New legislation on “fakes” and “discrediting” Russian army made it possible to sensor any forms of dissent.

**643**

people criminally prosecuted because of anti-war position

**37**

of them are journalists

**7430**

minor offence cases for “discrediting the Russian army”

**535**

cases of undue pressure for expressing an anti-war opinion

# Issue 2: Freedom of expression and anti-war prosecutions



We recommended the Russian Federation to:

- Repeal the laws unduly restricting the right to freedom of expression and access to information, including first and foremost laws establishing military censorship on citizens and media outlets;
- Ensure unrestricted access to alternative information and independent media for all people, including information on the war in Ukraine;
- Refrain from arbitrary arrest, detention, and enforced disappearance of media workers, release arbitrarily detained media workers.

# Thank you for your attention!

We are always available at:

[data@ovdinfo.org](mailto:data@ovdinfo.org)

<https://en.ovdinfo.org/>

and all social media channels.