

Tyumen Case in Russia



The Final Straw Radio – March 10, 2024

We have a brief interview on the conspiracy case against six anarchists and antifascists in Russia known as the Tyumen case (for where it initiated). The six anarchists, some of whom barely knew each other, were tortured into confessions of conspiracy to further anarchist ideology and damage the Russian war machine.

Telegram Support channel in Russian: <https://t.me/tu-menskoedelo>

Articles on the case and individuals on Avtonom: <https://avtonom.org/en/taxonomy/term/1761>

Music by some of the imprisoned men appear in a compilation to fundraise for their legal funds: <https://blackploshad.bandcamp.com/album/music-of-antifascist-prisoners-tortured-by-the-police-tyumen-case>

Search for this interview title at <https://thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org/> to find links to further resources on this topic, featured music, the audio version, and files for printing copies of this episode.

TFSR: Would you please introduce yourselves with any names, gender pronouns or affiliations as make sense for this conversation?

Tyumen Cause Support Crew: Unfortunately, as a rule, we do not name names. I think it would be more correct to say that this is an interview with a member of the Tyumen cause support group.

TFSR: Will you introduce us to the so-called Tyumen case? What was alleged by the state to have happened?

TCSC: In short, in August 2022, two friends from Tyumen were detained by patrol officers on the outskirts of the forest, suspecting them of distributing drugs. But instead of drugs, they were found to have a homemade explosive of 300 grams in size. Both were immediately taken to the Department for Combating Extremism and over the next two days, four more young guys were detained: two from Yekaterinburg and two from Surgut. The date of detention indicated in the resolution appears as a day later than the actual detention. During this period of time, all the guys were tortured into giving confessions. Based on the imaginary date of detention, the investigator conducted an interrogation, during which all the guys admitted that they were members of the terrorist community, not forgetting to also indicate the involvement of the others. That is, according to the state, immediately after the arrest (in fact, the next day), our comrades laid out all the ins-and-outs by admitting to the crime and doing all the work for the Special Services, which sounds ridiculous in itself.

During the year and a half that investigative actions have been ongoing, psychological pressure has not ceased to be exerted on our comrades. Confrontations are held in the same building where the torture took place (the building of the Department for Combating Extremism). Under pressure from the investigation, one of the defendants (Kirill Brik) entered into a pre-trial agreement and testified against the other guys.

Now the defendants and their defenders have moved to the stage of familiarization with the materials of the criminal case.

TFSR: Who are the people who are accused? Can you name them, tell us a bit about each them and why it's believed the state targeted them?

TCSC: All the detainees, being ideological anarchists and anti-fascists opposed street neo-Nazism in their cities, and also did not hide their negative attitude towards military actions by Russia. According to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, each participant must have a specific role, but first things first.

Danil Chertykov is the frontman in an underground band called Rocker Balboa in one of the songs he sings “Go through your conscience with a machine gun at the ready, it has long been known that war is not a place for miracles, close your eyes to the truth, get used to someone’s screams, hide behind a sense of duty and throw away humanity”, in another song “Russia, America, China, Ukraine are just pieces of a huge world, a world that does not want war, although different countries, but the same people.” Danil is also a veterinarian, and therefore the investigation assigned him the role of a physician in an imaginary community.

Nikita Oleynik and Roman Paklin jointly opened a free anarchist library in the city of Surgut. And Oleynik is also a fairly well-known figure in the anarchist milieu of Surgut. According to investigators, Nikita Oleynik is a community organizer.

Yura Neznamov was engaged in 3D modeling, and we assume that he was detained because of his acquaintance with Nikita Oleynik. According to investigators, Yura was involved in financial issues in the community.

Deniz Aydin is also a musician, he played in the hardcore band Siberian Brigade and the black metal band Rasputin.

Kirill Brik was also interested in music and created a solo extreme project called m6th in the style of digital grindcore and ambient noise.

Deniz and Kirill were detained with explosives, the investigation called them pyrotechnics.

TFSR: Where did the cases take place? Are these hotbeds of dissident activity?

TCSC: The case itself is being conducted in the city of Tyumen, as I said earlier, the rest of the defendants were detained in the cities of Surgut and Yekaterinburg. It is difficult to say regarding hotbeds of dissident activity, since events related to war, as a rule, do not occur only in one region. Russia is a large country, gripped by the struggle for survival; outbreaks flare up and go out here and there.

TFSR: Are the defendants connected? (being political radicals involved in subcultural music, starting anarchist libraries etc?)

TCSC: All the accused are familiar because they are members of the same subcultural movement and have previously crossed paths at various festivals and concerts. Some of the defendants are better acquainted with each other than others. For example, Roman Paklin and Nikita Oleynik have been close friends for many years. And Danil Chertykov saw Deniz Aydin and Kirill Brik only once in his life and this meeting was very short. I have already reported on the library and musical activities.

TFSR: Can you talk about the torture experienced by the defendants and the lasting effects people suffer?

TCSC: Electric shock, strangulation, bullying, psychological violence, and threats of sexualized violence were used. Nick and Roma were tortured first in an airplane hangar outside the city, then they were brought to the Anti-Extremism Unit and tortured again. The rest were tortured only in the Department for Combating Anti-Extremism. Danil, during the torture, heard Yura's screams coming from the next office. When asked "what is this" he received the answer "be grateful that you are not lying in your blood, urine and shit right now." Danil was threatened with reprisals against his partner Alena. After receiving electric shocks, Yura was forced to shout that he loved Putin. Yura also reported in a lawyer's interview that he was threatened that he would be taken to the border with Ukraine and shot, and Deniz reported that he was threatened that his partner Diana would suffer because of his incorrect testimony. Roman Paklin had serious complications after torture, his eyesight was severely damaged and his hand almost gave out; in response to his requests for treatment, the management of the pre-trial detention center only provided him with painkillers. Currently, Roma is undergoing treatment in the Lebedev psychiatric hospital in the Tyumen region.

TFSR: Could you say that this Tyumen case falls into a pattern with other cases such as the Network or Penza cases of 6 years ago?

TCSC: Of course, the style of conducting a case is absolutely identical in all such cases. The main evidence is always confessions that were given under torture, as well as the unreasonably long process of collecting case materials.

TFSR: Is it alleged that these arrests and charges relate to the war in Ukraine somehow?

TCSC: As far as we know, the investigation indirectly mentions in the charges that the guys were planning to blow up military registration and enlistment offices and railway lines supplying military equipment to the front. However, the indictment does not mention that this is the only and main goal of the guys, but only as an example of the planned activity. The main motivation of the detainees, according to investigators, is directly anarchist ideology. One thing is certain - the screws are being tightened and the most free-thinking groups of the population, such as anarchists, always suffer from this.

TFSR: What do the security services gain from these cases and what do

movements lose?

TCSC: Movements are losing cohesion and self-confidence, and the state is consolidating control over the regions. Intelligence agencies, in turn, receive promotions and improve detection statistics.

TFSR: How can people in the international audience provide solidarity for these folks? Is fundraising still going on, can they receive letters, or would international solidarity actions be appreciated? Something else?

TCSC: Fundraising is still relevant, because there are substantial trials ahead, and an impressive amount will be needed to pay for the work of lawyers - about a million rubles. The guys are very happy to receive letters and try to answer them as best they can. We try to cover all events taking place in support of our comrades in our telegram channel. This is very important, because any publicity helps us tell as many people as possible about what is happening.

About information about cases, if we mean the Tyumen case, then we run a telegram channel, as well as an Instagram. If the question concerns other political affairs in Russia, then in our telegram channel we have prepared a folder with the most high-profile cases and people who found themselves in a situation similar to our comrades.

Roman Paklin is an anti-fascist from Surgut, tortured extensively, lost an arm, eye sight, had a stroke, is undergoing psychiatric treatment. Roman is charged under Art. 205.4 of the Criminal Code “participation in a terrorist organization” + part. 1 Art. 30 part. 2 articles 205.2 of the Criminal Code “preparation for a terrorist act”. In December 2023 prosecution added two more charges, “illegal preparation and storages of explosives as a part of organised criminal group”, and altogether Danil may be sentenced to a prison sentence between 15 and 30 years. Roma refuses to torture testimony and completely denies guilt, during a year in the pre-trial detention center he sought medical assistance.

Nikita Oleinik is an anti-fascist from Surgut, Nikita - according to the version of the investigation the organizer, is charged under Art. 205.4 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation “organization of a terrorist community” + part. 1 Art. 30 part. 2 of Art. 205 of the Criminal Code “preparation for a terrorist act”. In December, prosecutor added charges of “illegal preparation and storage of explosives as a part of a criminal group”. He now faces a prison sentence from up to 15 years in prison or life imprisonment. The lawyer notes that “there is nothing in the case, except the gravity of the charges and the testimony taken under torture”. Nikita completely denies his guilt.

Kirill Brik of Tyumen broke under torture and is taking a government lawyer and accepting all charges from the state, no longer supported by Moscow ABC

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