

RUSSIAN STATE USES TORTURE TO REPRESS AND TO EXTORT CONFESSIONS IN “TERRORISM”

On 10th February, 630 kilometers from Moscow, the court in Penza passed sentence on 7 people accused of organizing the so-called “anarchist terrorist community ‘Network’”.

This entire case is based on forced confessions after intense torture by electrocution as well as weapons planted by the Federal Security Service (“ФСБ”) and an extremely tenuous accusation that they were “planning to plan terrorist actions to overthrow the government of Russia”. For a “crime” without victims involving no real action and no real plan, the sentences decreed by the court are shockingly high. Dmitry Pchelintsev and Ilya Shakursky, the supposed organizers of this fabricated “Network,” were sentenced to 18 years and 16 years in prison, respectively. The others have been sentenced as follows: Arman Sagynbaev 6 years, Andrei Chernov 14 years, Vasily Kuksov 9 years, Mikhail Kulkov 10 years, and Maxim Ivankin 13 years of imprisonment.

Scientists, journalists, human rights defenders, and other groups in Russia have protested and demanded that the sentence be repealed. International solidarity is especially important at this moment because the “Network case” is not over. **In St.-Petersburg, two more people, Viktor Filinkov and Julian Boyarshinov, await trial on related charges. The next court hearings start on February 25.**

Many other anarchists and anti-fascists in Russia are experiencing repression and torture, including Azat Miftahov, Iliia Romanov, Egor Lesnyh, Evgeny Karakashev and Kirill Kuzminkin. They also deserve our attention.

More information about the Network case, details of financial support and prisoners addresses: <https://rupression.com/en>



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