The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Castration for Pedophiles

November 10, 2010



Convicted pedophiles should be released on parole only if they undergo voluntary chemical castration, children's ombudsman Pavel Astakhov said Wednesday, Interfax reported.

He cited statistics by unspecified American researchers who said only 3 percent of chemically castrated pedophiles commit new crimes against children on release, while the figure is 98 percent for those who do not undergo the procedure. Astakhov, who spoke at a children's ombudsmen conference in Moscow, also said legislation on sex crimes against minors should be toughened and the statute of limitations for such cases extended or canceled. ◙

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Original url: https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2010/11/10/castration-for-pedophiles-a2882