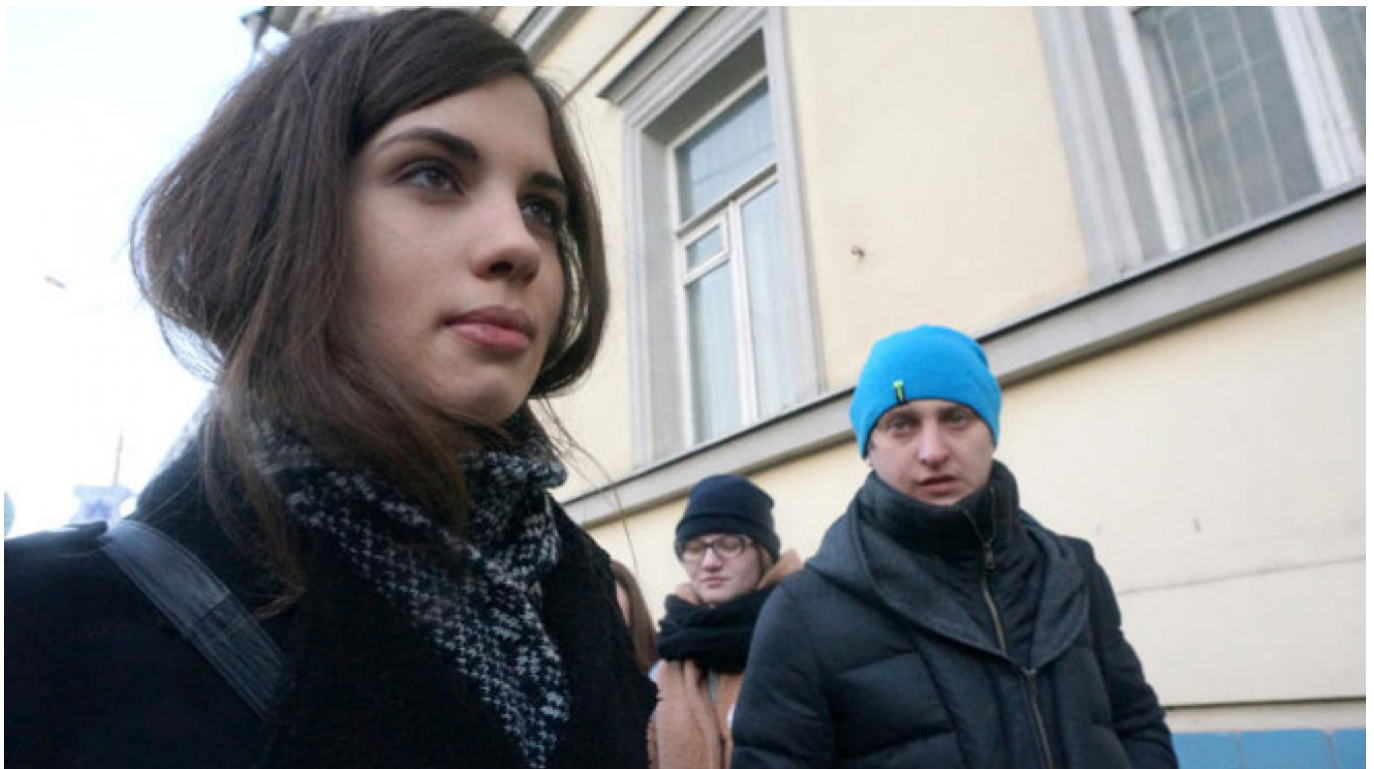


Russian Supreme Court Rejects Pussy Riot Appeal

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Pussy Riot member Nadezhda Tolokonnikova

Russia's Supreme Court has refused to reconsider the sentences handed out to notorious female protest group Pussy Riot after reviewing an appeal by one of its members, news agency RIA Novosti reported Tuesday.

"Yekaterina Samutsevich, one of the defendants in the case, filed a complaint. The court reviewed her complaints and the case materials and declined to reconsider the final verdict," a court spokesperson was quoted as saying.

Three Pussy Riot members were sentenced to two years in prison in 2012 for "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred" after performing an anti-Putin "punk prayer" in Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral earlier that year. Samutsevich was the only one of the three to have her sentence commuted to a suspended one on appeal because she had played a less active role in the stunt. Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alyokhina were released early from jail in a presidential amnesty in December 2013.

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