

Inmates at Urals Prison Go On Hunger Strike

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Yury Tutov / TASS

Inmates at a prison in the Urals have gone on a hunger strike, with some demands including visitation rights for multiple wives and English-language conversation.

Fifteen inmates from the labor camp No. 5 in the city of Nizhny Tagil started their hunger strike on July 19, the RIA Novosti news agency [reported](#) this week, citing a spokesperson for the local branch of the Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN).

Regional prosecutors [say](#) the inmates are using the strike to force out the prison leadership and soften the regime at the high-security prison.

Among the more exotic demands, one Muslim inmate has asked to be allowed to have dates with his multiple wives — in turns — and another inmate has complained that he is not allowed to speak on the phone in a foreign language, the RIA report said, identifying the language as English.

Three inmates also inflicted wounds on themselves in what the region's FSIN branch has [called](#) "blackmail," targeted at the prison authorities.

Earlier this month, an inmate at the same prison [appealed](#) to President Vladimir Putin in a video uploaded to YouTube, complaining of torture at the facility.

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<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2017/07/26/russian-prisoners-go-on-hunger-strike-a58503>