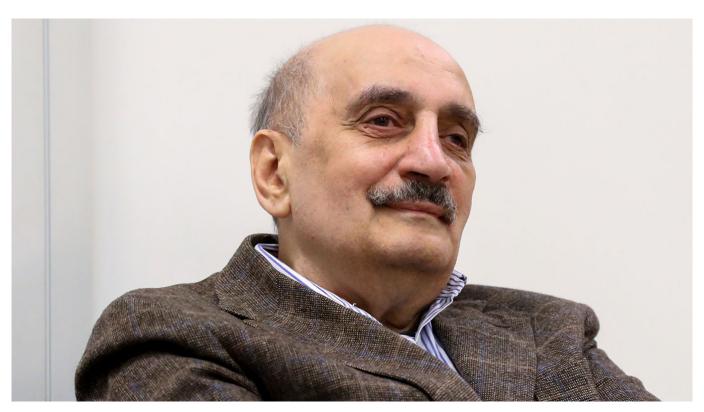# Prominent Soviet Dissident Sergei Grigoryants Dies Aged 82

March 15, 2023

.Sergei Grigoryants **Vyacheslav Prokofyev / TASS**

Sergei Grigoryants, a leading dissident in the Soviet Union and a Russian human rights activist, has died at the age of 82, his family [said](#) Tuesday.

"My father passed away today," Grigoryants' daughter Anna Grigoryants wrote on Facebook without specifying the cause of his death. "Eternal memory."

Grigoryants, an Armenian-Ukrainian national who was born in Kyiv in 1941, spent nine years in Soviet labor camps and prisons on charges of anti-Soviet propaganda in the 1970s and 1980s.

He founded the first openly published independent journal in the Soviet Union, Glasnost, following his release in 1987.

He continued to be a sharp critic of authorities after the fall of communism, assailing the conduct of Russia's two wars in Chechnya and complaining that President Vladimir Putin

wanted to restore a Soviet-style police state.

As head of the Glasnost Foundation, Grigoryants regularly spoke out against Russia's human rights record.

Grigoryants [filed](#) a complaint with the International Criminal Court in 2015 to investigate Russia's annexation of Crimea and support for pro-Moscow separatists in eastern Ukraine as cases of aggression and war crimes.

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