

closely involved in charity work since then.

Related article: [Russian Opposition Ex-Mayor Roizman Jailed Over Social Media Post](#)

Until recently, Roizman appeared largely untouchable.

But in August, the authorities opened a criminal probe against him for "discrediting" the Russian army in comments he made about the invasion of Ukraine.

Russia's Justice Ministry placed him on its list of "foreign agents" back in November.

Dressed in blue jeans and a white T-shirt, Roizman pleaded not guilty at the start of the trial in Yekaterinburg Wednesday.

Roizman, who openly denounces President Vladimir Putin and the war, has said he knows he could go to prison at any moment.

The former politician has a penchant for crude language and has peppered Twitter with swear words to mock officials in Russia, much to the delight of his supporters.

Tall and sporty, Roizman first rose to prominence in the early 2000s as an anti-drugs activist fighting Russia's severe narcotics epidemic.

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