The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Jails Ex-Soldier 13 Years for Treason – State Agencies

May 05, 2023



Vladimir Novikov, Press Service of the Mayor and Government of Moscow / Moskva News Agency

A Russian military court has sentenced a former soldier from a western region bordering Ukraine to 13 years in prison on treason charges, the state-run TASS news agency reported Friday.

According to Interfax, Artyom Semyonov was detained on March 30, 2022, on accusations of treason that the news agency noted was committed before Russia invaded Ukraine one month earlier.

Moscow's Second Western Military Garrison Court found Semyonov guilty on Thursday.

Russia's court system registered Semyonov's case more than a year later in April 2023 and the verdict was handed out this week.

Related article: Russian Soldier Sentenced to 14 Years in Prison on Treason Charges

He was ordered to serve 13 years in a maximum-security penal colony with the minimum sentencing guideline requiring 12-year prison stints.

The trial was held behind closed doors and case documents were classified, meaning no details were made public about the substance of the accusations against Semyonov.

He is the second Russian soldier to be imprisoned for treason in a week.

Activists say the number of treason cases in Russia has risen significantly since the country invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Court databases in Moscow alone currently contain several dozen names of defendants, compared to 16 convictions across the entire country in 2022.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/05/05/russia-jails-ex-soldier-13-years-for-treason-state-agencies-a81051