

Russia Jails Migrants' Rights Activist 14 Years for 'Terrorism'

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Bakhrom Khamroyev. **Photo from personal archive**

A migrants' rights activist who worked with Russia's oldest human rights group was [sentenced](#) to 14 years in prison late Tuesday on charges of terrorism for Facebook posts.

Bakhrom Khamroyev, 59, was [detained](#) the day Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

He was previously a member of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning civil rights group Memorial, which was ordered to disband in 2021 and whose members have been regularly [subjected](#) to police raids in recent years.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) claimed that Khamroyev had published six Facebook posts expressing support for Hizb ut-Tahrir, a pan-Islamist organization that Russia banned as a terrorist group in 2003.

Russian authorities initially accused Khamroyev of publicly justifying terrorism, then changed the charges last fall to those of leading a terrorist organization.

Moscow's Second Western Military Garrison Court found Khamroyev guilty and handed him a 14-year sentence in maximum-security penal colony, Memorial said on Twitter.

Prosecutors had requested a 21-year sentence for Khamryev.

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Khamroyev maintains that he had defended the rights of Muslims accused of ties to Hizb ut-Tahrir and was never himself a member.

Hizb ut-Tahrir is banned in a dozen countries including Russia but operates freely in the United States, United Kingdom and Ukraine.

Memorial [linked](#) the criminal charges against Khamroyev to his activism, which included providing legal aid to Muslims accused of terrorism.

Human Rights Watch's (HRW) deputy director for Europe and Central Asia [called](#) the terrorism accusations against Khamroyev "ludicrous."

Sota, an independent news site that regularly reports from court hearings, [reported](#) that Khamroyev will be transferred to a penal colony after serving the first three years of his sentence in jail.

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