

Russian Activist Jailed for 6 Years Over Social Media Posts

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Andrei Ivashev during an appearance in court. **Public assembly of the republic of Komi / VK**

Russian human rights activist Andrei Ivashev was sentenced to six years in prison on extremism charges for a series of social media comments, the independent 7x7 media outlet [reported](#) Thursday.

Ivashev, 62, is well known in the northern republic of Komi for his criticism of the region's Governor Vladimir Uyba, as well as one-man pickets in support of freedom of assembly.

A court in the Arctic city of Vorkuta ruled that three comments posted by Ivashev on the social media network VKontakte in 2020 constituted a call to murder Uyba.

Ivashev maintains his innocence and believes his case is related to his human rights work, according to 7x7.

A wartime crackdown on dissent in Russia has increasingly seen opposition activists handed draconian prison sentences on charges that supporters say are trumped-up — or revenge for

their political positions.

In addition to imprisonment, the court handed Ivashev a \$1,250 fine.

Prosecutors had requested a prison sentence of eight years.

Ivashev was detained in December 2021 on different criminal charges — incitement to hatred and contempt of court — over the social media comments.

Last year, investigators [opened](#) an additional criminal case on charges of calling for the governor's assassination.

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