

Russia Seeks Arrest of Exiled Prisoners' Rights Activist Osechkin

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Vladimir Osechkin. **AP/TASS**

A Moscow court on Thursday ordered the [arrest](#) in absentia of Vladimir Osechkin, the exiled founder of the Russian prisoners' rights NGO Gulagu.net.

Osechkin is accused of justifying terrorism and calling for terrorist attacks online, a crime punishable by up to seven years in prison, according to a ruling published by Moscow's Meshchansky District Court.

No other details surrounding the case are [known](#), according to the independent news website Mediazona.

Osechkin's associate Sergei Savelyev [accused](#) the court of failing to inform him or his representatives about the case and not inviting his lawyers to Thursday's session.

This is at least a third set of criminal charges against Osechkin.

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In July 2020, Osechkin was [reportedly](#) arrested in absentia for fraud on accusations of distributing fake insurance policies to prisoners' relatives.

After Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, he was [charged](#) under Russia's wartime censorship laws for spreading "fake news" about the Russian army.

Russia's Justice Ministry in January last year [labeled](#) Osechkin, who has lived in France since 2015 and is known for [publishing](#) video evidence of torture in Russia's prisons, as a "foreign agent."

The activist's reputation took a hit after the investigative outlet Proekt in September [accused](#) him of profiting from helping Russians seek asylum abroad and maintaining [ties](#) with high-ranking Russian security officials.

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