

Nobel Winner Muratov Calls on Foreign Leaders to Exchange Russian Political Prisoners

July 11, 2024



Dmitry Muratov holds up a photo of Oleg Orlov, the co-founder of the Memorial human rights group who is serving a 2.5-year prison sentence for criticizing the war in Ukraine. **NO.Media from Russia / YouTube**

Russian Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dmitry Muratov has called on foreign leaders to facilitate the exchange of political prisoners from Russia in a rare [video appeal](#) published Wednesday.

“Let's start exchanging civilians imprisoned on politically motivated charges. Many of them simply won't survive [in prison],” Muratov said in a 20-minute long YouTube clip.

“Let's exchange Russian [political] prisoners for supporters of *Russkiy mir* held in Ukrainian prisons. This must be done urgently because the time is running out,” the journalist added, referring to the Russian imperialist concept of the “Russian world.”

Related article: [Two Years Behind Bars, Time May Be Running Out to Save Vladimir Kara-](#)

[Murza](#)

Muratov also warned the public that acts of political terror in Russia are now committed out in the open and that pro-Kremlin snitchers are “keeping the entire country in the state of fear.”

“The more cruelty a person shows, the more he now considers himself a patriot. [In Russia] cruelty has become synonymous with the word ‘patriotism,’” said the journalist.

Muratov’s appeal comes as supporters of jailed Kremlin critic Vladimir Kara-Murza, who was hospitalized for an unexplained “medical examination” last week, [are sounding the alarm](#) over his life-threatening medical condition.

Earlier this year, allies of Alexei Navalny [claimed](#) that the opposition politician died in an Arctic prison just days ahead of a planned prisoner swap between Moscow and Western governments.

Muratov, the co-founder of Russia's top independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta, shared the Nobel Peace Prize with the Philippines' Maria Ressa for their respective fights for freedom of expression.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/07/11/nobel-winner-muratov-calls-on-foreign-leaders-to-exchange-russian-political-prisoners-a85685>