

U.S. Man Jailed in Russia Says Being Tortured by Fellow Inmates

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Robert Gilman. **Yelena Ruzanova / TASS**

A U.S. citizen jailed in Russia for kicking a police officer two years ago has complained of being tortured by his fellow inmates, local state-run media [reported](#) Monday.

Robert Gilman, 30, was [sentenced](#) to four years and six months in Russian prison for allegedly kicking a law enforcement officer in October 2022, a sentence that was reduced to three and a half years following an appeal.

While jailed for that conviction, Gilman allegedly attacked prison staff and an investigative officer on four separate occasions, [according](#) to state-run media agencies.

Related article: [Russian Court Jails U.S. Citizen for Kicking Police Officer](#)

Following those incidents, prosecutors brought four new charges against Gilman, including three counts of physical violence against a prison employee and one count of physical violence

against a justice official.

Gilman [pledged guilty](#) to the latest assault charges in June.

During a court hearing on Monday, Gilman claimed that his cellmates in a Voronezh penal colony regularly disturbed his sleep, took away his clothes, forced him to do squats and beat him, according to state-run broadcaster Vesti Voronezh. The American added that he is forced to physically defend himself.

The broadcaster claimed that no U.S. representatives were present at the hearing.

At a court hearing last month, Gilman also claimed that Russian prison officials attempted to poison him, saying he felt weak and experienced hypersalivation after eating a piece of bread but was denied medical assistance.

Gilman is [one of several](#) U.S. citizens currently being held in Russian prison, including journalists Evan Gershkovich and Alsu Kurmasheva, ex-Marine Paul Whelan and former U.S. teacher and diplomat Marc Fogel.

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