

Russian Beaten By Kadyrov's Son for Quran-Burning Charged With Treason

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Nikita Zhuravel. *Yelena Afonina / TASS*

A young Russian man imprisoned in Chechnya for allegedly burning a Quran faces new charges of “high treason” that could see him sentenced to life in prison, the Russian Prosecutor General’s Office [said](#) Thursday.

Nikita Zhuravel, 20, is [serving](#) three-and-a-half years in Chechen prison for “offending religious believers” and “hooliganism” after he was accused of [burning](#) a Quran outside a mosque in his hometown of Volgograd.

The Volgograd regional Prosecutor’s Office has now [approved](#) charges of “high treason” against Zhuravel.

Related article: [Chechen Court Hands 3.5-Year Jail Term to Quran-Burner](#)

Investigators claim that Zhuravel “proactively offered cooperation” to a representative of

Ukraine's SBU security service in March 2023. He allegedly sent this representative videos of a train carrying military equipment and military aircraft as well as data on the movement of a Russian military service vehicle.

Under the new charges, Zhuravel could [face](#) a sentence of up to life imprisonment.

In August 2023, Zhuravel was [assaulted](#) in pre-trial detention by Adam Kadyrov, the then-15-year-old son of Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov.

Adam Kadyrov escaped punishment for the incident and was even praised by his father and other Chechen officials. One lawmaker [called](#) Zhuravel "subhuman" and claimed that Kadyrov had "acted humanely" by letting him live.

Adam Kadyrov has been [given](#) numerous awards since the incident, including Chechnya's highest award, the Order of Akhmat Kadyrov.

The Memorial human rights group has [named](#) Zhuravel a political prisoner.

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