The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Doctor Jailed 5.5 Years for Criticizing War During Patient Visit

By AFP

November 12, 2024



Nadezhda Buyanova. **Tatyana Makeyeva / AFP**

A Moscow court on Tuesday sentenced a pediatrician to five-and-a-half years in prison for criticizing the war in Ukraine during a patient visit earlier this year.

Nadezhda Buyanova, 68, was found guilty of spreading "fake" information on the Russian army under wartime laws used to silence dissent.

"I believe this is absurd," she said in court Tuesday, moments before Judge Olga Fedina announced her sentence.

Buyanova was arrested in February after the ex-wife of a soldier who was killed in Ukraine, Anastasia Akinshina, said she had criticized Russia's role in the conflict during an appointment.

Related article: Kursk Region Official Sacked Amid Protests Over Housing Compensation

Several of Buyanova's supporters, mostly medical professionals, shouted "Shame on you!" in the court as the sentence was announced.

"We must empathize with one another and love others," Buyanova said in court. "But there is no paradise on earth, there is no peace on earth."

She protested her innocence throughout the trial.

"I am a pediatrician. I do not regret a single day," Buyanova said.

Buyanova was prosecuted despite there being no public evidence that she criticized the war. Akinshina's seven-year-old son testified against Buyanova in court.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/11/12/russian-doctor-jailed-55-years-for-criticizing-war-during-patient-visit-a86995