

Russian Jazz Musician Sentenced to 6 Years in Prison for Anti-War Facebook Posts

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Andrei Shabanov. **SOTAvision**

A Russian jazz musician suffering from a serious autoimmune disease and spinal condition was sentenced to six years in prison for anti-war and anti-Putin Facebook posts, a group of his supporters [said](#) Wednesday.

Saxophonist Andrei Shabanov, who is legally disabled, was arrested in March on [accusations](#) of calling for financial support for the Ukrainian military, committing acts of sabotage and joining pro-Ukrainian military units.

Shabanov has psoriatic arthritis, an autoimmune disease affecting the skin and joints. At a court hearing last year, he [stripped down](#) to his underwear to show lesions on his body, telling the court that joint damage he had suffered while in custody would leave him unable to ever play music again.

A military court in the southern city of Samara found Shabanov guilty of justifying terrorism and calling for actions against national security. In addition to the six-year prison term, the court barred him from managing websites for three years.

Prosecutors had initially sought an eight-year sentence.

Shabanov [pleaded](#) guilty at an earlier hearing and again during his closing [statement](#) Wednesday.

In March 2022, during the early days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, he was [fined](#) for posting Adolf Hitler's portrait on the website of an online project commemorating World War II veterans.

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