

Jailed Journalist Ponomarenko Receives New Sentence for Alleged Assault on Prison Guards

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Maria Ponomarenko. [@sotavisionmedia](#)

Siberian journalist and activist Maria Ponomarenko, who is serving a six-year jail sentence for speaking out against the war in Ukraine, was [sentenced](#) Thursday to an additional year and 10 months for allegedly assaulting prison guards.

Ponomarenko, 46, was [convicted](#) in 2023 for publishing reports on Russia's bombing of a theater in Mariupol, Ukraine. She denies both that charge and the latest [assault accusation](#), calling the case politically motivated and [accusing](#) prison authorities of abuse.

Related article: [Journalist Ponomarenko's Last Word in Court: 'I've Never Seen as Much Violence as I Have in Jail'](#)

A judge in the Altai region found her guilty of “disrupting the work of a penal colony,”

according to her employer, RusNews.

Prosecutors [had sought](#) a two-year sentence, asking to combine it with her existing term. According to Ponomarenko's lawyer, a judge granted the combined sentence, which means she is set for release in three years.

The human rights group Memorial recognizes the journalist as a political prisoner.

Ponomarenko has been [diagnosed](#) with histrionic personality disorder and has attempted suicide in detention. RusNews [reported](#) earlier this month that she was again on the verge of suicide and had launched a hunger strike to demand better conditions.

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