

Moscow Court Jails 5 Pussy Riot Members in Absentia Over 'War Fakes'

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Sergei Gapon / AFP

A court in Moscow sentenced five members of the exiled feminist protest group Pussy Riot to prison in absentia on charges stemming from their anti-war performances, the news website Mediazona [reported](#) Monday.

Maria Alyokhina, Taso Pletner, Olga Borisova, Diana Burkot and Alina Petrova were accused of spreading "false information" about the Russian military in a December 2022 music video called "[Mama, Don't Watch TV](#)."

They were also accused of committing "obscene acts" with President Vladimir Putin's portrait during an April 2024 performance in Munich, Germany. One Pussy Riot member [urinated](#) on a photo of the Russian leader during that performance.

Moscow's Basmanny District Court found all five Pussy Riot members guilty of the charges.

Alyokhina, the most high-profile member, received the highest prison sentence of 13 years

and 15 days in absentia. Pletner was sentenced to 11 years, while the other three women received nine-year sentences each.

Prison sentences issued in absentia usually take effect once a person is extradited to Russia.

The five Pussy Riot members, through their lawyers, informed the court that they reject the charges and consider their prison sentences to be politically motivated.

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