

Exiled Politician Leonid Gozman Jailed 10 Years in Absentia for 'Justifying Terrorism'

November 14, 2025



Leonid Gozman. RFE/RL

A Moscow military court sentenced exiled politician Leonid Gozman to 10 years in prison in absentia for “justifying terrorism,” authorities [announced](#) on Friday.

Russia’s Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said the charges stemmed from an interview that Gozman gave to a “foreign media outlet” in 2023.

The exiled news website Mediazona [identified](#) the outlet in question as the Russian-language edition of the German tabloid Bild, noting that Gozman was accused of speaking approvingly about Ukrainian drone strikes on Moscow and bomb attacks on a bridge linking annexed Crimea and Russia.

Last year, Gozman was [sentenced](#) in absentia to eight and a half years in prison for spreading “fakes” about the Russian military. Russia’s state financial watchdog Rosfinmonitoring

[added](#) Gozman to its list of “terrorists and extremists” earlier this year.

Gozman fled Russia in September 2022 after serving two consecutive 15-day jail terms for blog posts in 2013 and 2020 that compared the Soviet government to the Nazi regime.

Months earlier, the Justice Ministry labeled Gozman a “foreign agent” and detained him for allegedly failing to inform the authorities about his dual Russian-Israeli citizenship.

Gozman was the last leader of the Union of Right Forces, a small political party that included exiled former Putin adviser Anatoly Chubais and assassinated opposition figure Boris Nemtsov. The party dissolved itself in 2008.

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