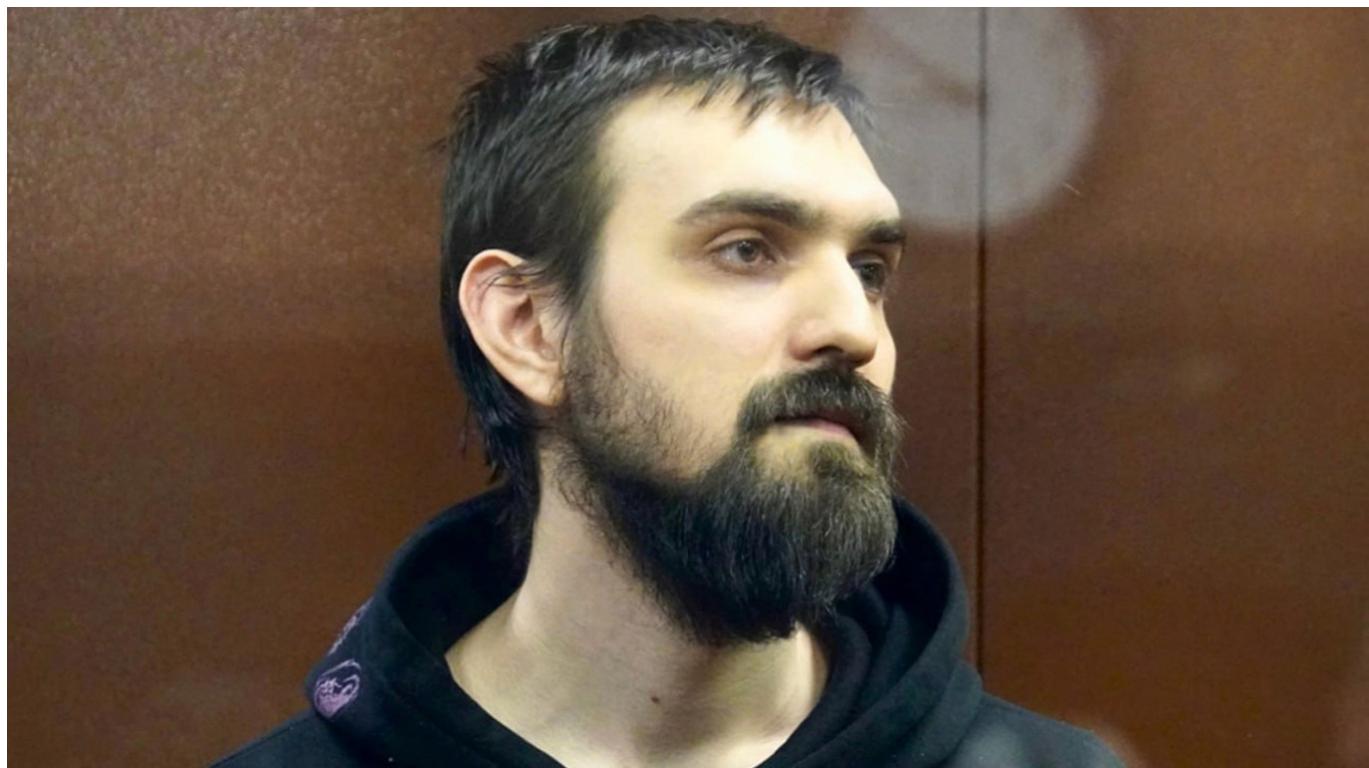


State Prosecutor Requests Nearly 6-Year Prison Sentence for Comedian Accused of Insulting Veterans

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Artemy Ostanin. **SOTAvision**

A Russian state prosecutor has [requested](#) a prison sentence of nearly six years for stand-up comedian Artemy Ostanin, who was arrested last year following accusations he insulted war veterans during a stand-up performance.

Ostanin was [arrested](#) in Belarus in March 2025 after Call of the People, a group known for publicly denouncing Russians, filed a police complaint accusing him of mocking veterans who had lost limbs fighting in the war against Ukraine.

The comedian has [denied](#) that his joke was aimed at war veterans. Footage of the stand-up performance that triggered the backlash suggests the joke was taken out of context.

Ostanin was later charged with inciting hatred. He was also designated as a terrorist and extremist in June.

Last week, Ostanin was formally indicted at Moscow's Meshchansky District Court. He now faces a [second charge](#) of "insulting the religious feelings of believers" after the authorities discovered a joke he previously made about Jesus.

During a court hearing on Tuesday, Ostanin accused Belarusian law enforcement officers of physically abusing him during his arrest last March, saying he suffered a spinal fracture before being transferred to Russia for trial.

At that same hearing, a state prosecutor asked that Ostanin be found guilty of both charges and be sentenced to five years and 11 months in a medium-security prison. The prosecutor also requested that the comedian be fined 300,000 rubles (\$3,900).

The judge overseeing the trial scheduled the next hearing date for Feb. 2.

During the hearing, Ostanin made a marriage proposal to his girlfriend Valeria Naumova, who is a witness in the case.

The news outlet *Mediazona* reported that none of the individuals in the case who claimed to have been offended by Ostanin's jokes attended Tuesday's hearing.

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