The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Moscow Court Jails Exiled Journalist Andrei Soldatov to 10 Years in Absentia

November 17, 2026



Andrei Soldatov. **Andrei Soldatov / Facebook**

A Moscow court on Tuesday sentenced exiled Russian investigative journalist Andrei Soldatov to 10 years in prison in absentia for spreading what authorities called "fake news" about the Russian military, the Moscow Prosecutor's Office said.

The Basmanny District Court found Soldatov, 51, guilty of publicly spreading "knowingly false" information about the Russian military's actions during the early months of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Prosecutors accused Soldatov of sharing an article and a link to a video interview that discussed the reported arrests of Federal Security Service (FSB) generals due to failures in the war in Ukraine on his online channel in June 2022.

The 10-year sentence incorporates part of a four-year prison term handed down in March for failing to comply with Russia's "foreign agent" requirements and participating in an "undesirable" organization.

The court ordered Soldatov taken into custody if he is extradited to Russia and banned him from running websites for five years.

Soldatov said on X that the case was opened "at the behest" of the FSB's internal security department after he reported on the agency's foreign and political intelligence branch.

Soldatov, who is based in London, runs the Agentura.ru website with fellow investigative journalist and co-author Irina Borogan. The two have spent decades reporting on the inner workings of Russia's security services.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2026/11/17/moscow-court-jails-exiled-journalist-andrei-soldatov-to-10-years-in-absentia-a94287