

7 May 2019

RUSSIA: 159 "anti-missionary" prosecutions in 2018 - list

By Victoria Arnold, Forum 18 (<https://www.forum18.org>)

Forum 18 has found 159 prosecutions in all of 2018 (56 of organisations and 103 of individuals) for violating Russia's July 2016 Administrative Code Article 5.26 "anti-missionary" restrictions. 132 of the 2018 prosecutions resulted in initial convictions (129 fines). 2018 saw a conviction rate of 90 per cent, compared with an 82 per cent conviction rate in the year from July 2016. Three foreigners were ordered deported, and one of the deportations was overturned on appeal).

There were in all of 2018 at least 159 prosecutions of individuals and communities for violating Russia's "anti-missionary" restrictions under Administrative Code Article 5.26, Part 3 ("Implementation of activities by a religious organisation without indicating its official full name, including the issuing or distribution, within the framework of missionary activity, of literature and printed, audio, and video material without a label bearing this name, or with an incomplete or deliberately false label"), Part 4 ("Russians conducting missionary activity"), and Part 5 ("Foreigners conducting missionary activity").

This marks a decrease in the overall number of such prosecutions compared with the first year of the legislation's implementation from July 2016. This appears to be primarily explained by the sharp drop in the number of Administrative Code Article 5.26 cases against Jehovah's Witnesses, whose activities were outlawed as "extremist" by Russia's Supreme Court in 2017 (http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2474). As a result of the ban there has been a steep rise in Jehovah's Witnesses held in pre-trial detention, under house arrest, and under travel restrictions as over 100 face "extremism"-related criminal charges (http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2453).

Forum 18 found in 2018 159 Administrative Code Article 5.26 prosecutions which reached court of 56 organisations and 103 individuals. Of these, 132 resulted in conviction, with 129 fines being imposed. 2018 saw a conviction rate of 90 per cent, compared with 82 per cent in 2016-17.

Of the 14 foreigners charged, three were ordered deported (in the form of monitored independent departure), although one had this overturned on appeal.

More than half of Russia's federal subjects have seen at least one prosecution. Russian citizens comprise the overwhelming majority of individual defendants.

A number of the prosecutions listed below followed surveillance by the FSB security service of people exercising freedom of religion and belief. The FSB then informed prosecutors office officials or the ordinary police, who then initiated prosecutions the people or community involved.

(A full analysis of these 2018 prosecutions is here (http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2474.)

These prosecutions are based on changes to the Administrative Code and Religion Law introduced in July 2016 as part of the "Yarovaya" package of "anti-terrorism" laws (http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2246).

Russia has also imposed its "anti-missionary" legislation in Crimea (http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2441), which it annexed in 2014.

All prosecutions under Administrative Code Article 5.26, Parts 3, 4, and 5 known to have reached court in the calendar year 2018 are listed below, ordered by date of court hearing. The list is based on court decisions and court records seen by Forum 18 and other information.

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Administrative Code Article 5.26, Part 3

- Known Administrative Code Article 5.26, Part 3 cases ("Implementation of activities by a religious organisation without indicating

its official full name, including the issuing or distribution, within the framework of missionary activity, of literature and printed, audio, and video material without a label bearing this name, or with an incomplete or deliberately false label")

A fine of 50,000 Roubles (about 6,700 Norwegian Kroner, 690 Euros or 770 US Dollars) represents nearly six weeks' average wages for those in work or 16 weeks' average state retirement pension.

1) 12 January 2018

Name: Sarov Society for Krishna Consciousness

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Sarov District Magistrate's Court No. 2, Nizhny Novgorod Region

Circumstances: Hare Krishna community charged with not displaying its full official name at its registered address – defence argued that this is only its legal address and no religious worship takes place there, only a yearly meeting of the board, and that the full official name is posted on the inner door of the flat (not on the outer, as they are afraid of the reaction of other people); judge notes that the law does not specify what sort of "activity" needs to take place for display of the full official name to be required, therefore should be shown wherever any meeting is held

Appeal: none

2) 16 January 2018

Name: Russian Evangelical Christian Church (centralised religious organisation)

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Yuzhnoye Tushino District Magistrate's Court No. 164, Moscow

Circumstances: after Justice Ministry inspection of compliance with the Religion Law, organisation charged with not using its full official name on its website

Appeal: unsuccessful – 28 May 2018, Tushino District Court, Moscow

3) 18 January 2018

Name: Restoration Evangelical Christian Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Central District Magistrate's Court No. 2, Kaliningrad

Circumstances: church charged with not displaying a sign with its full official name at its rented premises

Appeal: none

4) 18 January 2018

Name: Liberation in Jesus Pentecostal Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Kungur Magistrate's Court No. 3, Perm Region

Circumstances: church charged with having "carried out its activities...without displaying its full official name" – ie. the sign on its building omits the phrase "local religious organisation" and the word "Pentecostals"; found during prosecutor's office inspection of compliance with anti-extremism legislation; lawyer argued that the community had no funds to pay a fine

Appeal: unsuccessful – 27 February 2018, Kungur City Court, Perm Region; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 24 April 2018, Perm Regional Court

5) 7 February 2018

Name: Transfiguration Baptist Union Church

Punishment: warning

Court: Khasansky District Magistrate's Court No. 91, Primorye

Circumstances: church charged with not using its full official name on documents it submitted to the regional Justice Ministry branch for an inspection

Appeal: none

6) 16 February 2018

Name: Full Blessing Evangelical Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Moscow District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Kaliningrad

Circumstances: church charged with having "carried out its activity .. without displaying its full official name" on its door

Appeal: none

7) 22 February 2018

Name: Shakhunya Seventh-day Adventist Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Shakhunya District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Nizhny Novgorod Region

Circumstances: church charged with holding meetings for worship in a house which had a sign reading "Seventh-day Adventist Church" hanging to the left of the door; found by police, who interrupted a meeting for worship after receiving a message about "suspicious people" gathering; there was a sign with the church's full official name on the inside of the building – lawyer Vasili Nichik claims the signs had been swapped by an official; witnesses claim that until recently, the sign had shown the full official name; "[In law] All doubts are interpreted in favour of the [defendant]. The community does not have a bank account or any property to pay the fine. Almost all believers are pensioners. The nature and extent of the damage is incommensurable. Officials could simply point out that there is a problem. In fact, there was no reason to talk about the presence of an administrative offence. The law requires that there be a sign with the full name of the organisation, but there is no norm in the Law [which requires] the sign to be outside"

Appeal: unsuccessful – 16 April 2018, Shakhunya District Court, Nizhny Novgorod Region

8) 28 February 2018

Name: To the Ends of the Earth Evangelical Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Kirov District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: church charged with "carrying out its activities" without displaying its full official name at the entrance to the building or on the walls, as found by prosecutor's office inspection of compliance with the Religion Law; defence argued that an appropriate sign was displayed inside the building's hallway and on the door of the room rented for worship, by agreement with the building's owner

Appeal: unsuccessful – 17 April 2018, Kirov District Court, Ufa; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 4 July 2018, Supreme Court of Bashkortostan

9) 12 March 2018

Name: Good News Mission of Evangelisation and Charity of Evangelical Christians (Pentecostals)

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Kirov District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: church "carried out a meeting for worship with the participants of members of this religious organisation without displaying its official full name at the entrance to the building or on the walls of the building by the entrance, in the form of a sign or plaque" – found by prosecutor's office inspection

Appeal: none

10) 12 March 2018

Name: Reconciliation Baptist Union Church

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Yoshkar-Ola Magistrate's Court No. 9, Mari El Republic

Circumstances: church charged with distributing religious literature to the public which did not bear its full official name; found during planned Justice Ministry inspection of documents; also charged under Part 4; judge decides that there is no proof that the unmarked literature presented in court is the same as that distributed during the alleged missionary activity, which "does not allow for an objective conclusion to be drawn about the presence or absence of markings on the products distributed by the missionaries"

Appeal: by Justice Ministry; case sent back for re-examination – 9 April 2018, Yoshkar-Ola City Court; acquittal upheld on re-examination – 26 April 2018, Yoshkar-Ola Magistrate's Court No. 9

11) 13 March 2018

Name: House of the Gospel

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Naberezhniye Chelny Magistrate's Court No. 7, Republic of Tatarstan

Circumstances: Protestant church charged because it "carried out its activities" (i.e. held a meeting for worship) "without displaying its full name", as established during a police inspection of its rented premises; pastor argued that there was a sign inside the building, and that the church's full name was also displayed on leaflets explaining the meeting for worship and on a screen in the hall

Appeal: unsuccessful – 6 June 2018, Naberezhniye Chelny City Court, Republic of Tatarstan

12) 14 March 2018

Name: Pomorian Old Orthodox Church (centralised religious organisation)

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Preobrazhenskoye District Magistrate's Court No. 111/113, Moscow

Circumstances: priestless Old Believer church; did not display full official name – details not given in verdict

Appeal: none

13) 15 March 2018

Name: Ark Evangelical Church

Punishment: none – because of "insignificance" of "offence"

Court: Sevsk District Magistrate's Court No. 51, Bryansk Region

Circumstances: church charged with having a sign on its building which did not exactly match its full official name; police officer in court (not the one who carried out the police inspection) states that this had no "harmful or dangerous consequences"; judge decides

to free church from administrative responsibility

Appeal: none

14) 16 March 2018

Name: House of the Living God Evangelical Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Rezh District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Sverdlovsk Region

Circumstances: church charged with not having a sign with its full official name on the outside of the building where it holds meetings for worship – pastor argues that registration paperwork with the full official name is posted on the door of the room where meetings for worship take place, and that he did not point this out during the prosecutor's office inspection, because he did not know what the inspection was for

Appeal: unsuccessful – 25 April 2018, Rezh District Court, Sverdlovsk Region; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 24 August 2018, Sverdlovsk Regional Court

15) 19 March 2018

Name: Jesus Embassy Pentecostal Church, Kstovo

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Kstovo Magistrate's Court No. 2, Nizhny Novgorod Region

Circumstances: church charged with "carrying out its activities" without displaying a sign with its full official name, as established during police inspection; defence insisted that two signs were in place, one to the right of the front door of the flat where meetings for worship are held, one on the wall immediately inside the flat

Appeal: supervisory appeal rejected without consideration – 15 June 2018, Nizhny Novgorod Regional Court

16) 20 March 2018

Name: Vyacheslav Matveychuk

Punishment: none – sent back by judge

Court: Nyagan Magistrate's Court No. 2, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region

Circumstances: same case as Evangelical Church of Jesus Christ (below)

Appeal: none

17) 1 April 2018

Name: Mary, Queen of Peace Roman Catholic Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Berezniki Magistrate's Court No. 49, Perm Region

Circumstances: church charged with uploading videos of church activities to the internet, which did not show its full official name; apparently found by FSB security service monitoring; defence argued that these were uploaded on a non-official basis by congregation members

Appeal: unsuccessful – 28 May 2018, Berezniki City Court, Perm Region

18) 6 April 2018

Name: Life Evangelical Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Chernovsky District Magistrate's Court No. 11, Chita

Circumstances: church charged with posting material (photos, videos, information about meetings for worship) in a publicly accessible group on VKontakte without including its full official name, as well as links to its website and YouTube channel, which also do not display its full official name – found by FSB security service

Appeal: unsuccessful – 21 December 2018, Chernovsky District Court, Chita; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 6 March 2019, Zabaykalsk Regional Court

19) 15 April 2018

Name: Mari Evangelical Church

Punishment: none – because of insignificance of offence

Court: Yoshkar-Ola Magistrate's Court No. 7, Mari El Republic

Circumstances: church charged with failing to display a sign on its building with its full official name – found by prosecutor's office inspection; sign by the door showed an incomplete name (apparently lacking only the name of the town); defence pointed out that the building is a private house on land designated for residential use, which is continuously lived in, and the church uses only one room – also argued that the law requires the display of a religious organisation's full official name, but does not specify what form this should take; judge decides that the church should be freed from administrative responsibility because the offence "did not lead to significant socially dangerous consequences, and therefore does not represent a significant violation of protected social relations".

Appeal: none

20) 17 April 2018

Name: Kurgan Regional Union of Baptist Churches

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Petukhovo District Magistrate's Court No. 19, Kurgan Region

Circumstances: regional religious organisation fined because the Light of Truth Baptist church (a religious group) did not include the organisation's name on its sign, as established during inspection by prosecutor's office

Appeal: unsuccessful – 14 June 2018, Petukhovo District Court, Kurgan Region

21) 18 April 2018

Name: Vladimir Ananyev

Punishment: 15,000 Roubles

Court: Kalinin District Magistrate's Court No. 10, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: pastor of House of God Evangelical Church (religious group) charged for giving a man a book – "Alone with God", by Richard Wurmbrand – "as part of missionary activity", which was not labelled with a religious organisation's full official name; district prosecutor's office and police Centre for Countering Extremism carried out inspection on the information of Republic prosecutor's office and apparent tip-off from an individual; defendant argued that acquaintances came of their own accord to pray at his home and that the man himself asked to read the book; fine reduced because defendant has two underage children; also charged under Part 4

Appeal: none

22) 24 April 2018

Name: Nagayevskoye Muslim community

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Karsun District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Ulyanovsk Region

Circumstances: Muslim community charged for failing to display a sign on its mosque with its full official name – found by prosecutor's office inspection

Appeal: none

23) 28 April 2018

Name: Jesus Embassy Church (centralised religious organisation)

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Moscow District Magistrate's Court No. 6, Nizhny Novgorod

Circumstances: Pentecostal church charged for posting video (in 2016) on VKontakte showing international students talking about their experiences as church members, which did not display the church's full official name; also charged under Part 4

Appeal: unsuccessful – 8 June 2018, Moscow District Court, Nizhny Novgorod

24) 10 May 2018

Name: Khimki Muslim community

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Khimki Magistrate's Court No. 258, Moscow Region

Circumstances: religious organisation charged for displaying religious literature and information on Islam on a table in the corridor outside their prayer room – material was not marked with the organisation's full official name; also charged under Part 4

Appeal: none

25) 15 May 2018

Name: Makhalla No. 486

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Soviet District Magistrate's Court No. 6, Astrakhan

Circumstances: Muslim community charged for failing to display a sign on its building with its full official name – found during prosecutor's office inspection

Appeal: none

26) 15 May 2018

Name: King Jesus Evangelical Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Dzerzhinsky District Magistrate's Court No. 5, Perm

Circumstances: church charged for posting videos of church events on YouTube which did not show its full official name – found by FSB security service

Appeal: unsuccessful – 9 July 2018, Dzerzhinsky District Court, Perm; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 3 September 2018, Perm Regional Court

27) 29 May 2018

Name: Russian United Methodist Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Khamovniki District Magistrate's Court No. 365, Moscow

Circumstances: centralised religious organisation charged after planned Justice Ministry inspection of documentation, for not displaying its full official name on copies of a hymn book (the phrase "Centralised Religious Organisation" was omitted)

Appeal: unsuccessful – 30 October 2018, Khamovniki District Court, Moscow

28) 31 May 2018

Name: Vifaniya Baptist Union Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Avtozavodsky District Magistrate's Court No. 3, Nizhny Novgorod

Circumstances: church charged for "carrying out religious activity without displaying its full official name", ie. failing to have a sign on its building; the pastor (who owns the house where meetings for worship are held) argued that there is a sign on the door of the room used for meetings for worship, and the law does not specify where an organisation's name should be displayed; police officer agreed that there was a sign on an internal door, but pointed out that outer clothing belonging to visitors was hanging in a corridor before this room

Appeal: none

29) 5 June 2018

Name: Evangelical Church of Jesus Christ

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Nyagan District Magistrate's Court No. 3, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District

Circumstances: church charged for not displaying its full official name at the entrance to the hall it was using for worship in a house of culture; police inspected premises after receiving information about an "unsanctioned gathering"; judge agrees with defence that two information panels with the correct details had indeed been set up, one outside and one inside the hall

Appeal: none

30) 13 June 2018

Name: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Lenin District Magistrate's Court No. 5, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: church charged for distributing literature not labelled with its full official name – details unspecified

Appeal: none

31) 17 June 2018

Name: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: October District Magistrate's Court No. 12, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: church charged for distributing magazines not labelled with its full official name – details unspecified

Appeal: none

32) 19 June 2018

Name: Russian Central United Christian-Presbyterian Society

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Yasenevo District Magistrate's Court No. 60, Moscow

Circumstances: organisation charged for using an incomplete name in its official stamp on the report of its 2017 activities submitted to the Justice Ministry

Appeal: none

33) 3 July 2018

Name: Orthodox Jewish Community of Yoshkar-Ola

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Yoshkar-Ola Magistrate's Court No. 3, Mari El Republic

Circumstances: community charged for "carrying out its activities without using its full official name", ie. in paperwork submitted to the Justice Ministry for a planned document check, it had used the abbreviated form "MROOI 'Yevreyskaya Obshchina g. Yoshkar-Ola'", or simply "Yevreyskaya Obshchina g. Yoshkar-Ola", instead of the full form: "Mestnaya Religioznaya Organizatsiya Ortodoksalnogo Iudaizma 'Yevreyskaya Obshchina g. Yoshkar-Ola'"

Appeal: none

34) 17 July 2018

Name: Naberezhniye Chelny Seventh-day Adventist Church

Punishment: none – case sent back

Court: Naberezhniye Chelny Magistrate's Court No. 12, Republic of Tatarstan

Circumstances: unknown – did not display full official name

Appeal: none

35) 17 July 2018

Name: Word of Life Evangelical Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Central District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Orenburg

Circumstances: church charged for not having a sign with its full official name on the facade of its building, as established during prosecutor's office inspection; defence argued that a temporary sign was placed outside during meetings for worship, and that there is no direct obligation in law for such a sign to be permanent

Appeal: unsuccessful – 28 August 2018, Central District Court, Orenburg

36) 27 July 2018

Name: Community of Evangelical Christian-Baptists, Chelyabinsk

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Lenin District Magistrate's Court No. 7, Chelyabinsk

Circumstances: Baptist Union church charged for not having a sign on its facade showing its full official name; defence argued that the sign had fallen into disrepair and had been replaced the day after the prosecutor's office inspection of compliance with the Religion Law (which was carried out according to information from the police Centre for Countering Extremism)

Appeal: none

37) 12 August 2018

Name: Glorification Pentecostal Church, Abakan

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Abakan Magistrate's Court No. 12, Republic of Khakasiya

Circumstances: church charged for not using its full official name on its Facebook page and YouTube channel

Appeal: unsuccessful – 10 October 2018, Abakan City Court, Republic of Khakasiya

38) 17 August 2018

Name: Tabernacle of Faith Pentecostal Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Syzran Magistrate's Court No. 82, Samara Region

Circumstances: as part of an unscheduled inspection of compliance with the Religion Law, the Justice Ministry requested copies of the church's documents and any literature it was distributing – church accused of "using a shortened name in its activities"

Appeal: unsuccessful – 18 September 2018, Syzran City Court, Samara Region

39) 22 August 2018

Name: Arkhangelsk Bible Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: October District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Arkhangelsk

Circumstances: Baptist Union church failed to display full official name – details unknown

Appeal: twice rejected because submitted too late – 26 September and 19 November 2018, October District Court, Arkhangelsk

40) 28 August 2018

Name: Nyagan Seventh-day Adventist Church

Punishment: none – because of insignificance of offence

Court: Nyagan District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District

Circumstances: church charged for not displaying its full official name on the facade of its building, after prosecutor's office inspection of its compliance with the Religion Law; judge concluded that the violation "did not carry a significant threat to protected public relations" and accepted that it had been "promptly eliminated" by the church

Appeal: none

41) 29 August 2018

Name: Moscow Baptist Theological Seminary

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Perovo District Magistrate's Court No. 290/291, Moscow

Circumstances: after Justice Ministry inspection of compliance with the Religion Law, seminary charged for not using its full official name on its website and in April 2018 issues of its electronic journals "Vestnik" and "Informatsionniy Vestnik"

Appeal: none

42) 11 September 2018

Name: Hope Mission of Evangelical Christians of Chelyabinsk

Punishment: unknown fine

Court: Metallurgical District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Chelyabinsk

Circumstances: church charged for failing to display its full official name on the facade of its building – found by prosecutor's office "inspection of compliance with the [Religion Law]"

Appeal: none

43) 20 September 2018

Name: Kadriya Makhalla

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Meleuz Magistrate's Court No. 2, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: Muslim community charged for having religious literature "freely available for visitors to the mosque", as found during prosecutor's office inspection of compliance with the Religion Law, and for showing only the shortened name "Kadriya Mosque" on its facade; judge notes definitions of "marking" and "distribution" from Constitutional Court statement of 7 December 2017

Appeal: none

44) 27 September 2018

Name: Oleg Gugin

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Lipetsk District Magistrate's Court No. 2, Lipetsk Region

Circumstances: chairman of Church of Evangelical Christians of Lipetsk and Lipetsk Region charged because religious organisation had "carried out activity without displaying its official full name" in the form of a sign on its building, as established by police inspection

Appeal: none

45) 9 October 2018

Name: Konstantin Kostin

Punishment: none – case sent back

Court: Kansk District Magistrate's Court No. 147, Krasnoyarsk Region

Circumstances: unknown

Appeal: none

46) 16 October 2018

Name: Light of the Gospel Baptist Union Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Kirov District Magistrate's Court No. 6, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: church charged both for lacking a sign with its full official name and distributing literature not labelled with its full official name; pastor accepted guilt, but pointed out that the books were for internal use only and were never distributed, and that the incomplete sign in place at the time of the prosecutor's office inspection was only temporary

Appeal: none

47) 28 November 2018

Name: Makhalla Muslim community, Mostovaya

Punishment: unknown fine

Court: Lenin District Magistrate's Court No. 6, Ulyanovsk

Circumstances: unknown – failed to display full official name

Appeal: unsuccessful – 11 February 2019, Lenin District Court, Ulyanovsk

48) 4 December 2018

Name: Rebirth Evangelical Church, Astrakhan

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Trusovsky District Magistrate's Court No. 2, Astrakhan

Circumstances: church charged for "carrying out activities without displaying its official full name", as found by prosecutor's office inspection – details unknown

Appeal: none

49) 14 December 2018

Name: A.Yu. Kaygorodov

Punishment: none – case sent back

Court: Tavda District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Sverdlovsk Region

Circumstances: unknown

Appeal: none

50) 19 December 2018

Name: Reconciliation Evangelical Church, Narimanov

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Narimanov District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Astrakhan Region

Circumstances: church charged for not displaying a sign with its full official name on the building where it rents basement space for worship, after prosecutor's inspection apparently triggered by tip-off

Appeal: none

51) 20 December 2018

Name: Kingdom of God Pentecostal Church

Punishment: warning

Court: Ivanteyevka Magistrate's Court No. 1, Moscow Region

Circumstances: church charged for distributing printed materials on its premises which were not marked with the organisation's full official name, as found by prosecutor's office inspection of compliance with the Religion Law

Appeal: none

52) 21 December 2018

Name: Cornerstone Pentecostal Church, Ulyanovsk

Punishment: none – sent back for technical reasons

Court: Zavolzhsk District Magistrate's Court No. 7, Ulyanovsk

Circumstances: unknown – failed to display full official name

Appeal: none

53) 21 December 2018

Name: Kineshma Seventh-day Adventist Church

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Kineshma Magistrate's Court No. 7, Ivanovo Region

Circumstances: church charged for "carrying out its activities", without displaying its full official name on its building; defence argued that the property inspected by police was only a legal address, where meetings for worship are not held, and that a sign showing the church's full name was placed outside its place of worship every Saturday

Appeal: none

54) 26 December 2018

Name: House of the Gospel Evangelical Church

Punishment: 31,000 Roubles

Court: Naberezhniye Chelny Magistrate's Court No. 20, Republic of Tatarstan

Circumstances: church charged for having religious literature on its premises which did not bear its full official name, while holding a meeting for worship for about 25 attendees, "including people not connected to the religious organisation" – literature found during police inspection; defence argued that the only people present at the meetings for worship were congregation members and that Part 3 only applies to materials distributed as part of missionary activity

Appeal: unsuccessful – 13 February 2019, Naberezhniye Chelny City Court, Republic of Tatarstan

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Administrative Code Article 5.26, Part 4 and Part 5

- Known cases under Administrative Code Article 5.26, Part 4 ("Russians conducting missionary activity") and Part 5 ("Foreigners conducting missionary activity")

A fine of 50,000 Roubles (about 6,700 Norwegian Kroner, 690 Euros or 770 US Dollars) represents nearly six weeks' average wages

for those in work or 16 weeks' average state retirement pension.

1) 9 January 2018

Name: Nikolai Ivanov

Punishment: 10,000 Roubles

Court: Maykop City Court, Republic of Adygeya

Circumstances: pastor of unregistered Baptist church charged because he "performed missionary activity without state registration", as established by a prosecutor's office inspection; no details; defendant denied his actions constituted missionary activity

Appeal: supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 19 February 2018, Supreme Court of the Republic of Adygeya

2) 10 January 2018

Name: Roman Kirkin

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Mezhdurechensk Magistrate's Court No. 1, Kemerovo Region

Circumstances: member of New Generation-linked Pentecostal religious group charged for preaching in rented premises when the rental agreement stated that they were to be used for entrepreneurial activity

Appeal: none

3) 12 January 2018

Name: Valery Imokov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Buguruslan Magistrate's Court No. 3, Orenburg Region

Circumstances: defendant (with Listratov – see below) distributed Baptist literature and audio recordings to passers-by outside a shop without written authorisation from his religious group or evidence of notification to the authorities of a religious group's creation – argued that he was acting on his own behalf, not that of a religious group, and therefore had no documents

Appeal: unsuccessful – 19 February 2018, Buguruslan District Court, Orenburg Region

4) 12 January 2018

Name: Sergey Listratov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Buguruslan Magistrate's Court No. 3, Orenburg Region

Circumstances: defendant (with Imokov – see above) distributed Baptist literature and audio recordings to passers-by outside a shop without written authorisation from his religious group or evidence of notification to the authorities of a religious group's creation – argued that he was acting on his own behalf, not that of a religious group, and therefore had no documents

Appeal: none

5) 18 January 2018

Name: V.V. Lopatsky

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Kungur Magistrate's Court No. 4, Perm Region

Circumstances: congregation member of Liberation in Jesus Pentecostal Church posted church videos (content unspecified) on a social network, without any authorisation from the religious organisation to carry out missionary activity on its behalf; defendant argued that the videos were not aimed at recruiting new members and that he had been acting only on his own behalf

Appeal: unsuccessful – 14 February 2018, Kungur City Court; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 18 April 2018, Perm Regional Court

6) 22 January 2018

Name: G.A. Gryaznykh

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Gubakha Magistrate's Court No. 1, Perm Region

Circumstance: unregistered Baptist pastor charged for holding meetings for worship in his home without written authorisation from a religious group or organisation, and without having notified the Justice Ministry of the existence of a religious group; "The placement by [the defendant] at the entrance of a residential building of a sign reading: "House of Prayer of the International Council of Churches of Evangelical Christian-Baptists, meeting for worship every Sunday from 10am" and information on the website of the International Union of Churches of Evangelical Christian-Baptists .. with his contact details, suggests that [the defendant] carries out missionary activity aimed at disseminating information about the beliefs of [the church] among other persons who are not members"

Appeal: unsuccessful – 8 February 2018, Gubakha City Court, Perm Region

7) 27 January 2018

Part 5

Name: William Neil Matthews

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles plus deportation (monitored independent departure)

Court: Abakan City Court, Republic of Khakasiya

Circumstances: American citizen and Pentecostal pastor charged for speaking at a conference held by the Glorification Church in a house of culture, without the necessary documents from the religious organisation authorising missionary activity

Appeal: partially successful (deportation order lifted) – 20 February 2018, Supreme Court of the Republic of Khakasiya

8) 29 January 2018

Name: Ragim Faradzhov

Punishment: 7,000 Roubles

Court: Komintern District Magistrate's Court No. 10, Voronezh

Circumstances: Muslim charged because he "not officially part of a religious organisation...conducted the rite of namaz in the presence of congregation members, that is, carried out missionary activity in violation of [the Religion Law]", in a prayer room in a block of flats which was freely accessible to anybody; police argued that, as a missionary, he had "organised and led Muslim prayers while not a leader of any religious organisation registered with the Justice Ministry", and that local authorities should be informed of "such events"; defence argued that only Faradzhov's friends had been present, nobody else had been invited, and no information about Islam had been shared with non-Muslims; defendant also denied forming a religious group

Appeal: unsuccessful – 13 March 2018, Komintern District Court, Voronezh; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 31 July 2018, Voronezh Regional Court

9) 5 February 2018

Name: G.B. Saytkhuzhin

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Krasnoarmeysk District Magistrate's Court No. 2, Chelyabinsk Region

Circumstances: imam charged for leading weekly prayers for a Muslim religious group; defence pointed out that only fellow believers were present and the defendant did not involve any non-members of the group; religious group had submitted all necessary documentation to the Justice Ministry and met on premises rented for the purpose; defendant does not appear in group's documentation as leader or member of the group, but was appointed by the group (in minutes of a meeting) as its imam and to carry out missionary and teaching duties – judge concludes that he unlawfully performed missionary activity, as a non-member and without written authorisation from the group

Appeal: unsuccessful – 15 March 2018, Krasnoarmeysk District Court, Chelyabinsk Region; supervisory appeal lodged on 1 August 2018 at Chelyabinsk Regional Court (outcome unknown)

10) 8 February 2018

Name: A. Yu. Zharnikova

Punishment: none – sent back by judge for technical reasons

Court: Mezhdurechensk City Court, Kemerovo Region

Circumstances: unknown

Appeal: none

11) 14 February 2018

Name: Leonid Artyukh

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Svetly Magistrate's Court, Kaliningrad Region

Circumstances: defendant led a meeting for worship of the unregistered "New Beginning" Protestant church in rented accommodation for about fifteen people, at which he "explained texts of Holy Scripture, that is, performed missionary activity in violation of the [Religion Law]"

Appeal: unsuccessful – 16 May 2018, Svetly City Court, Kaliningrad Region

12) 16 February 2018

Name: Valery Imokov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Buguruslan Magistrate's Court No. 3, Orenburg Region

Circumstances: defendant again (with Chibizov – see below) distributed Baptist literature and audio recordings to passers-by outside a shop without written authorisation from his religious group or evidence of notification to the authorities of a religious group's creation – argued that he was acting on his own behalf, not that of a religious group, and therefore had no documents

Appeal: unsuccessful – 5 April 2018, Buguruslan District Court, Orenburg Region

13) 16 February 2018

Name: Vladimir Chibizov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Buguruslan Magistrate's Court No. 3, Orenburg Region

Circumstances: defendant (with Imokov – see above) distributed Baptist literature and audio recordings to passers-by outside a shop without written authorisation from his religious group or evidence of notification to the authorities of a religious group's creation –

argued that he was acting on his own behalf, not that of a religious group, and therefore had no documents

Appeal: unsuccessful – 5 April 2018, Buguruslan District Court, Orenburg Region

14) 18 February 2018

Name: Zaynulla Sabitov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Proletarian District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Tver

Circumstances: Muslim defendant charged for calling two acquaintances and inviting them to come to Tver and participate in his religious organisation's activities, despite the fact that the Justice Ministry had refused it registration because of "incompatibility of its states with the law and the impossibility of its being accommodated on residential premises" – therefore, defendant carried out missionary activity without the necessary authorising documents from a religious association or proof of registration, and on residential premises; one copy of an "extremist" book also found by prosecutor's office officials and FSB security service officers in his home, where religious rites were held, "freely accessible, and anyone could acquaint himself with it"

Appeal: none

15) 26 February 2018

Name: R. Makhmudov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Asha District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Chelyabinsk Region

Circumstances: Muslim charged for running a prayer house in a residential building, as established by prosecutor's office inspection, without having notified the authorities of the existence of a religious group; prosecutor interpreted worship in the house as unlawful "missionary activity in residential premises"

Appeal: none

16) 1 March 2018

Name: Eduard Tomilov (Father Roman)

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Nurlat District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Republic of Tatarstan

Circumstances: Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) priest charged for "carrying out missionary activity by holding a meetings for worship in the presence of the congregation of [a] prayer house" and talking to the assembled congregation members in a village prayer house about "his understanding of Christianity". (According to the appeal verdict, this was legally seen as missionary activity.)

Fr Roman had been suspended from ministry by his Moscow Patriarchate bishop, as well as being deprived of the right to teach, give blessings, wear the pectoral cross, or serve in institutions of the Moscow Patriarchate; Fr Roman was suspended because he and four other priests refused to mention Patriarch Kirill in their prayers, in protest at Kirill's "ecumenism" after he held a meeting with Pope Francis in Cuba

Appeal: unsuccessful – 12 April 2018, Nurlat District Court, Republic of Tatarstan

17) 2 March 2018

Part 5

Name: A.L. Moon

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles without deportation

Court: Central District Court, Chelyabinsk

Circumstances: South Korean citizen; member of the Society for Worldwide Mission – Church of God charged for "the dissemination of information about her beliefs among people who are not members of this religious association, with the aim of involving them in the association"; no further details given

Appeal: none

18) 5 March 2018

Name: Vitaly Kupriyanov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Kirov District Magistrate's Court No. 52, Omsk

Circumstances: same case as Abdullin (below); Hare Krishna adherent charged for distributing religious literature outside a shopping centre in Megion in the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous District (case sent to court in his home region), without authorising documents from a religious organisation

Appeal: unsuccessful – 7 May 2018, Kirov District Court, Omsk

19) 14 March 2018

Name: Reconciliation Baptist Union Church

Punishment: 50,000 Roubles

Court: Yoshkar-Ola Magistrate's Court No. 9, Mari El Republic

Circumstances: church charged for issuing documents authorising members to carry out missionary activity on its behalf which did not include proof of the church's registration; found during planned Justice Ministry inspection of documents; also charged under Part 3

Appeal: unsuccessful – 24 April 2018, Yoshkar-Ola City Court, Mari El Republic; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 10 August 2018, Supreme Court of the Mari El Republic

20) 14 March 2018

Name: S.S. Zhavoronkova

Punishment: unknown fine

Court: Northwestern District Magistrate's Court No. 27, Vladikavkaz, Republic of North Osetiya-Alaniya

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent – details unknown

Appeal: none

21) 19 March 2018

Part 5

Name: Itai Sinvani

Punishment: 50,000 Roubles without deportation

Court: Meshchansky District Court, Moscow

Circumstances: one of six Israeli citizens working for a Jewish Kabbalah study centre, charged for "the dissemination of information about Kabbalah beliefs among non-members of this religious association, with the aim of involving such people as participants" – by lighting Hanukah candles in their office window – without having notified the authorities of the existence of a religious group; "offence" uncovered by prosecutor's office inspection after they were informed by the FSB security service

Appeal: none

22) 19 March 2018

Part 5

Name: Irina Sinvani

Punishment: 50,000 Roubles without deportation

Court: Meshchansky District Court, Moscow

Circumstances: one of six Israeli citizens working for a Jewish Kabbalah study centre, charged for "the dissemination of information about Kabbalah beliefs among non-members of this religious association, with the aim of involving such people as participants" – by lighting Hanukah candles in their office window – without having notified the authorities of the existence of a religious group; "offence" uncovered by prosecutor's office inspection after they were informed by the FSB security service

Appeal: none

23) 19 March 2018

Part 5

Name: Liak Kutnovski

Punishment: 50,000 Roubles without deportation

Court: Meshchansky District Court, Moscow

Circumstances: one of six Israeli citizens working for a Jewish Kabbalah study centre, charged for "the dissemination of information about Kabbalah beliefs among non-members of this religious association, with the aim of involving such people as participants" – by lighting Hanukah candles in their office window – without having notified the authorities of the existence of a religious group; "offence" uncovered by prosecutor's office inspection after being informed by the FSB security service

Appeal: none

24) 19 March 2018

Part 5

Name: Anna Brodsky

Punishment: 50,000 Roubles without deportation

Court: Meshchansky District Court, Moscow

Circumstances: one of six Israeli citizens working for a Jewish Kabbalah study centre, charged for "the dissemination of information about Kabbalah beliefs among non-members of this religious association, with the aim of involving such people as participants" – by lighting Hanukah candles in their office window – without having notified the authorities of the existence of a religious group; "offence" uncovered by prosecutor's office inspection after they were informed by the FSB security service

Appeal: none

25) 19 March 2018

Part 5

Name: Dmitri Dubovis

Punishment: 50,000 Roubles without deportation

Court: Meshchansky District Court, Moscow

Circumstances: one of six Israeli citizens working for a Jewish Kabbalah study centre, charged for "the dissemination of information about Kabbalah beliefs among non-members of this religious association, with the aim of involving such people as participants" – by lighting Hanukah candles in their office window – without having notified the authorities of the existence of a religious group; "offence" uncovered by prosecutor's office inspection after they were informed by the FSB security service

Appeal: none

26) 19 March 2018

Part 5

Name: Genadi Dubovis

Punishment: 50,000 Roubles without deportation

Court: Meshchansky District Court, Moscow

Circumstances: one of six Israeli citizens working for a Jewish Kabbalah study centre, charged for "the dissemination of information about Kabbalah beliefs among non-members of this religious association, with the aim of involving such people as participants" – by lighting Hanukah candles in their office window – without having notified the authorities of the existence of a religious group; "offence" uncovered by prosecutor's office inspection after they were informed by the FSB security service

Appeal: none

27) 19 March 2018

Name: Sergei Radionov

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Urai District Magistrate's Court No. 2, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region

Circumstances: unspecified Christian affiliation; charged for holding "conversations on religious themes" with two people in the stairwells of their blocks of flats, without authorising documents from a religious organisation or group; defendant denied performing missionary activity on behalf of any church or having any intention of involving people in the activities of any religious association, and argued that having conversations about religion is not against the law; judge also notes that conversations about religion are not the same as missionary activity, and that missionary activity is carried out by religious associations to recruit new members, but that the police report mentioned no religious association and included no evidence that the defendant is a member of one

Appeal: none

28) 19 March 2018

Name: Mikhail Leontyev

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Urai District Magistrate's Court No. 2, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region

Circumstances: unspecified Christian affiliation; same case as Radionov (above)

Appeal: none

29) 20 March 2018

Name: Aleksey Kovtun

Punishment: 6,000 Roubles

Court: Bulunsky District Magistrate's Court No. 7, Sakha Republic (Yakutiya)

Circumstances: unregistered Council of Churches Baptist charged for holding meetings for worship for a small number of fellow believers in his flat, without written authorisation from the religious group or notification to the authorities of the existence of a religious group – and for giving a border patrol officer a religious calendar and the book "Stories about the Life of Christ"; border patrol officers had come to the flat after a Sunday meeting for worship, claiming that they "selectively go around flats and check documents"; the following Sunday, a police officer came to check the details of the flat owner – prosecutors then initiated the case

Appeal: conviction upheld but verdict changed to remove reference to missionary activity without notification as defendant proved he was at work on the date specified by the prosecution; fine also reduced to 5,000 Roubles – 23 April 2018, Bulunsky District Court, Sakha Republic (Yakutiya); supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 30 May 2018, Supreme Court of Sakha-Yakutiya

30) 22 March 2018

Name: Danila Abdullin

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Pervomaysk District Magistrate's Court No. 77, Omsk

Circumstances: same case as Kupriyanov (above); Hare Krishna adherent charged for distributing religious literature outside a shopping centre in Megion in the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous District (case sent to court in his home region), without authorising documents from a religious organisation

Appeal: none

31) 26 March 2018

Name: I.A. Datiyeva

Punishment: unknown fine

Court: Northwestern District Magistrate's Court No. 27, Vladikavkaz, Republic of North Osetiya-Alaniya

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent – details unknown

Appeal: none

32) 26 March 2018

Name: A.Kh. Kubalov

Punishment: unknown fine

Court: Northwestern District Magistrate's Court No. 27, Vladikavkaz, Republic of North Osetiya-Alaniya

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent – details unknown

Appeal: none

33) 26 March 2018

Name: A.B. Cheldiyev

Punishment: unknown fine

Court: Northwestern District Magistrate's Court No. 27, Vladikavkaz, Republic of North Osetiya-Alaniya

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent – details unknown

Appeal: none

34) 28 March 2018

Name: Aleksandr Tselykh

Punishment: 10,000 Roubles

Court: Dyomsk District Magistrate's Court No. 2, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: Pentecostal Christian charged for holding with friends meetings for worship in his private house, without having submitted notification of the existence of a religious group, during which he "disseminates information about his beliefs and distributes corresponding literature without labelling" – established by prosecutor's office inspection triggered by "complaints from neighbours"; second offence

Appeal: none

35) 29 March 2018

Name: Lyubov Koltyrina

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Mezhdurechensk Magistrate's Court No. 5, Kemerovo Region

Circumstances: same case as Lebedeva (below); director of Falun Gong health club charged for holding a "Petals of Peace" event (at which participants fold paper lotus flowers to show support for Falun Gong followers persecuted in China), and distributing information on Falun Gong beliefs among non-members in a village newsletter and on her VKontakte profile page, without having notified the Justice Ministry of a religious group's existence

Appeal: initially unsuccessful – 5 June 2018, Mezhdurechensk City Court, Kemerovo Region; returned for re-examination by supervisory judge – 22 August 2018, Kemerovo Regional Court; successful on re-examination – 21 September 2018, Mezhdurechensk District Court, Kemerovo Region

36) 4 April 2018

Name: Leonid Artyukh

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Svetly Magistrate's Court, Kaliningrad Region

Circumstances: defendant led a meeting for worship of the unregistered "New Beginning" Protestant church in rented accommodation for about ten people, at which he "explained texts of Holy Scripture, that is, performed missionary activity in violation of the [Religion Law]"

Appeal: unsuccessful – 16 May 2018, Svetly City Court, Kaliningrad Region

37) 7 April 2018

Name: Marina Lebedeva

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Mezhdurechensk Magistrate's Court No. 5, Kemerovo Region

Circumstances: same case as Koltyrina (above); defendant charged for distributing Falun Gong literature in blocks of flats and issuing invitations to worship in the pages of the village council's newsletter, "with the aim of involving new members in [her] religious group"; FSB security service investigation established that the religious group had not notified the Justice Ministry of its creation; Lebedeva argued that she was not responsible for the contents of the newsletter, only its distribution, and that as soon as she learned that the book had been banned, she stopped handing it out

Appeal: initially unsuccessful – 30 May 2018, Mezhdurechensk City Court; sent back for re-examination by supervisory judge – 22 August 2018, Kemerovo Regional Court; successful on re-examination – 20 September 2018, Mezhdurechensk City Court

38) 10 April 2018

Name: Sergei Suprunenko

Punishment: 6,000 Roubles

Court: Abinsk District Magistrate's Court No. 115, Krasnodar Region

Circumstances: director of unregistered Baptist religious group charged for putting information about his group online, without having submitted notification of its existence to the authorities – including an illustrated newspaper and the invitation "If you want to ask a question, receive free literature or audio materials, or attend a Christian meeting for worship, contact the following addresses and telephone numbers in your city", followed by the defendant's name; defendant denies uploading this himself; second offence

Appeal: unsuccessful – 26 May 2018, Abinsk District Court, Krasnodar Region

39) 11 April 2018

Name: M.V. Kozina

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Sarov Magistrate's Court No. 1, Nizhny Novgorod Region

Circumstances: alleged member of Grace Baptist Union church charged for distributing religious newspaper in a shopping centre, without authorising documents from a religious association; defendant denies membership of the church and insists she left the papers on a stand at the entrance of a shop on her own behalf

Appeal: none

40) 17 April 2018

Name: Aleksandr Yurovskikh

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Petukhovo District Magistrate's Court No. 19, Kurgan Region

Circumstances: Baptist Union pastor fined for "carrying out religious activities" without having notified the authorities of the existence of his unregistered religious group; notification submitted only after the start of a prosecutor's office inspection (which also led to prosecution of the regional Baptist organisation under Part 3)

Appeal: unsuccessful – 14 June 2018, Petukhovo District Court, Kurgan Region; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 16 January 2019, Kurgan Regional Court

41) 18 April 2018

Name: Vladimir Ananyev

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Kalinin District Magistrate's Court No. 10, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: pastor of House of God Evangelical Church (religious group) charged for giving a man a book – "Alone with God", by Richard Wurmbrand; district prosecutor's office and police Centre for Countering Extremism carried out inspection on the information of Republic prosecutor's office and apparent tip-off from an individual; defendant argued that acquaintances came of their own accord to pray at his home and that the man himself asked to read the book; judge noted that defendant had not submitted notification of the creation of a religious group, that he did not have any authorising documents, and that the "missionary activity" was carried out on residential premises; also charged under Part 3

Appeal: none

42) 18 April 2018

Name: Margarita Stoyenko

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Eastern District Magistrate's Court, Birobidzhan, Jewish Autonomous Region

Circumstances: chair of Jewish Cultural-Educational Centre "Beit Khazokhar" charged for distributing copies of the Kabbalistic text Zohar among public and commercial organisations in the region "with the aim of involving new members in the activities of the [Centre] and Kabbalistic beliefs" – one person to whom a text was given passed it on to the police; defence argued that the book is not religious literature but a philosophical and mystical text which is part of Jewish cultural heritage, that it is written in Aramaic ("which nobody in the JAO knows"), and that its distribution was in keeping with the statutory aims of the Centre, which are to preserve and promote Jewish culture and traditions; judge notes that missionary activity is "activity of a religious association, aimed at disseminating information about its beliefs among persons who are not members .. in order to involve these individuals as members", that there is no evidence that the defendant disseminated any beliefs with this aim, and that the Centre is not a religious organisation

Appeal: none

43) 19 April 2018

Name: Magomed Omarov

Punishment: 10,000 Roubles

Court: Taganrog Magistrate's Court No. 3, Rostov Region

Circumstances: Muslim imam charged for holding regular Friday prayers for 10-15 people in the basement of a block of flats, "without documents granting him the right to lead meetings for worship"

Appeal: unsuccessful but fine reduced to 5,000 Roubles – 14 June 2018, Taganrog City Court, Rostov Region

44) 19 April 2018

Part 5

Name: I.F. Kurov

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles without deportation

Court: Gubkin City Court, Belgorod Region

Circumstances: Ukrainian citizen (from Donetsk) charged for putting Jehovah's Witness brochures into postboxes in the stairwell of a block of flats, without authorising documents from a religious group or organisation; defendant, who was in Russia at the invitation of a friend, admitted distributing the material with the aim of bringing people to Jehovah's Witnesses

Appeal: none

45) 20 April 2018

Name: Oleg Korban

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Surazh District Magistrate's Court No. 55, Bryansk Region

Circumstances: Seventh-day Adventist pastor charged for "urging citizens to join his religious organisation and distributing corresponding literature"; in his appeal, defendant refers to dissemination of information among non-members as the "system-forming characteristic" [defining feature] of missionary activity (as stated in the Constitutional Court's 13 March 2018 definition); case initiated after the Moscow Patriarchate Russian Orthodox Church mother of a local Adventist complained about the Seventh-day Adventists to Patriarch Kirill – complaint was passed to Bryansk Prosecutor's Office via the General Prosecutor's Office

Appeal: unsuccessful – 5 June 2018, Surazh District Court; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 23 January 2019, Bryansk Regional Court

46) 21 April 2018

Name: Anatoly Chaban

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Magadan Magistrate's Court No. 7, Magadan Region

Circumstances: unregistered Baptist leader charged for holding a meeting for worship in a private house, which was attended by two people who were not members of the religious group – they were unknown to the congregation, and later gave statements to the police that Chaban had invited them to the meeting for worship; police entered the meeting for worship with video cameras, though stopped filming when asked; defendant also given warning under Administrative Code Article 19.7 ("Failure to provide or late provision of information to a state body") for not informing the authorities of the existence of the religious group

Appeal: successful – 7 June 2018, Magadan City Court

47) 21 April 2018

Part 5

Name: Kudzai Nyamarebvu

Punishment: none – case sent back for technical reasons

Court: Prioksky District Court, Nizhny Novgorod

Circumstances: Pentecostal Zimbabwean medical student charged for reposting, on her own VKontakte page, a video which showed another African student talking about how she believed God had helped her recover from illness

Appeal: none

48) 27 April 2018

Name: Yury Kislitsin

Punishment: unknown fine

Court: Yoshkar-Ola Magistrate's Court No. 2, Mari El Republic

Circumstances: Protestant pastor – details unknown

Appeal: none

49) 28 April 2018

Name: S.V. Modyakov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Gorodishche District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Penza Region

Circumstances: unregistered Baptist pastor charged for leading worship meetings of a congregation of seven people, without notifying the Justice Ministry of the existence of a religious group, and without written authorisation from the religious group

Appeal: unsuccessful – 29 May 2018, Gorodishche District Court, Penza Region; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 29 October 2018, Penza Regional Court

50) 28 April 2018

Name: Jesus Embassy Church (centralised religious organisation)

Punishment: 100,000 Roubles

Court: Moscow District Magistrate's Court No. 6, Nizhny Novgorod

Circumstances: Pentecostal church charged for posting video (in 2016) on VKontakte showing international students talking about their experiences as church members; also charged under Part 3

Appeal: unsuccessful – 8 June 2018, Moscow District Court, Nizhny Novgorod; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 25 October 2018, Nizhny Novgorod Regional Court

51) 4 May 2018

Name: R.K. Mukhachev

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: October District Magistrate's Court No. 1/6, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent charged for holding weekly worship meetings with fellow believers in his flat, without having submitted notification of the creation of a religious group; defence argued that Mukhachev was not the leader of a religious association, but was exercising his constitutional right to profess his faith, and that no attempt to involve other citizens was made at the meetings for worship held in his home; on the date in question, three unknown people came to the meeting – in court, they testified that they had gone for the first time

Appeal: none

52) 10 May 2018

Name: M.K. Tetermazov

Punishment: none – sent back for technical reasons

Court: Industrial District Magistrate's Court No. 20, Vladikavkaz, Republic of North Osetiya-Alaniya

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent charged for public procession – details unknown; resubmitted by prosecutor on 5 June 2018 but sent back a second time

Appeal: none

53) 10 May 2018

Name: A.B. Cheldiyev

Punishment: none – sent back for technical reasons

Court: Industrial District Magistrate's Court No. 20, Vladikavkaz, Republic of North Osetiya-Alaniya

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent charged for public procession – details unknown

Appeal: none

54) 10 May 2018

Name: Khimki Muslim community

Punishment: 100,000 Roubles

Court: Khimki Magistrate's Court No. 258, Moscow Region

Circumstances: religious organisation charged for displaying religious literature and information on Islam on a table in a corridor outside their prayer room – when their agreement of free use of the premises with the local property department covered only the room itself; also charged under Part 3

Appeal: unsuccessful – 11 July 2018, Khimki City Court, Moscow Region; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 4 October 2018, Moscow Regional Court

55) 23 May 2018

Name: Denis Chuprov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Slavgorod Magistrate's Court No. 1, Altai Region

Circumstances: pastor of Pentecostal "Cornerstone" church charged because two members of his religious group had held a "Feed your neighbour" event for the needy on the town's main street with a New Testament and Psalter lying on the table without markings – despite the fact that a) the requirement for religious literature to carry a full official name applies only to religious organisations; b) the two group members had all appropriate documentation to carry out missionary activity; and c) the pastor was not himself present at the event

Appeal: supervisory appeal successful – 14 August 2018, Altai Regional Court

56) 23 May 2018

Name: Anatoly Stalmakov

Punishment: none – though found guilty

Court: Soviet District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Chelyabinsk

Circumstances: unregistered Baptist pastor charged for holding regular Sunday meetings for worship in his home without notifying the Justice Ministry of the existence of a religious group; prosecutor's office inspection (based on police information) found that the home contained a "hall" equipped for worship with benches, a sound system, and a lectern, and biblical quotations on the walls: judge concludes that this is an "insignificant offence", "the scale of the harm and the severity of the consequences [of which] do not represent a significant violation of protected societal relations", and releases the defendant from administrative responsibility "taking into account the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights on the reasonable balance of public and private interests"

Appeal: by prosecutor, unsuccessful – 20 June 2018, Soviet District Court, Chelyabinsk

57) 24 May 2018

Part 5

Name: Veniamin Shmatenko

Punishment: 45,000 Roubles without deportation

Court: Tigil District Court, Kamchatka

Circumstances: Ukrainian citizen (Council of Churches Baptist) charged for carrying out "missionary activity in a place not intended for religious rites and ceremonies, aimed at disseminating information about the beliefs of 'Evangelical Christian-Baptists' among the population of the village Palana, who are not members of this religious association", without authorising documents and without having notified the authorities of the existence of a religious group; defendant had displayed religious literature on a folding table outside a pharmacy

Appeal: unsuccessful – 4 July 2018, Kamchatka Regional Court; cassational/supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 30 November 2018, Kamchatka Regional Court

58) 25 May 2018

Name: Rustam Bersanov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Livny District Magistrate's Court No. 2, Oryol Region

Circumstances: defendant gave a sermon at an unregistered Muslim prayer room at a hotel complex without written authorisation from a religious group or evidence of notification to the authorities of a religious group's creation

Appeal: none

59) 30 May 2018

Name: Nadezhda Gribovskaya

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Ishimbai District Court, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: Jehovah's Witness charged for giving a man a booklet when he asked for one – he then called the police; defendant had been sitting at a bus stop talking with an acquaintance

Appeal: none

60) 31 May 2018

Name: Sergei Tseryut

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Taganrog District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Rostov Region

Circumstances: chairman of Taganrog's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints originally charged under Part 3 because the sign showing the Church's full official name had been stolen; his "offence" was reclassified because Part 3 only applies to legal entities; congregation had themselves reported the theft of their sign to the police and immediately replaced it with a sheet of paper – no meeting for worship was held on the day the sign disappeared; appeal judge concludes that reclassification should not have been allowed as it worsened defendant's position

Appeal: successful – 2 July 2018, Taganrog City Court, Rostov Region

61) Early June 2018

Name: unknown man

Punishment: unknown fine

Court: unknown magistrate's court, Sochi, Krasnodar Region

Circumstances: Pentecostal believer fined for unspecified missionary activity without the required written authorisation from a religious organisation or group

Appeal: none known

62) 4 June 2018

Name: Aleksey Gorelov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Novokuibyshevsk Magistrate's Court No. 69, Samara Region

Circumstances: congregation member of Pentecostal Church of God charged for posting a video on YouTube of himself telling the story (at a meeting for worship) of his recovery from drug addiction; defendant denied posting the video and argued that he was simply talking of his personal relationship with God, not inviting anybody to the church; video found by the FSB security service; appeal judge agreed that there was no evidence that defendant had uploaded the video himself

Appeal: successful – 17 July 2018, Novokuibyshevsk City Court, Samara Region

63) 4 June 2018

Name: Dima Khusnutdinov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Ishimbai District Magistrate's Court No. 2, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent met with friends every Friday at his flat "for the holding of meetings for worship and other religious rites and ceremonies", interpreted as unlawful missionary activity as it took place on residential premises

Appeal: supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 29 August 2018, Supreme Court of Bashkortostan

64) 6 June 2018

Name: Pyotr Klimushin

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Anapa City Court, Krasnodar Region

Circumstances: unregistered Baptist pastor charged because his religious group distributed the free newspaper "Do you believe?" in the street and put copies in people's postboxes – without having submitted notification to the Justice Ministry of the group's existence

Appeal: none

65) 8 June 2018

Name: Kazan Society for Krishna Consciousness

Punishment: 100,000 Roubles

Court: Vakhitovsky District Magistrate's Court No. 3, Kazan

Circumstances: Society charged for holding a public event involving Indian music and dance, at which food was handed out and participants offered religious literature to passers-by for donations – interpreted by officers of the Justice Ministry's Centre for Countering Extremism (who were filming the event) and an expert from Kazan Federal University as "missionary activity", as "The public performance of the maha-mantra, accompanied by traditional Hare Krishna music and dance, is a public prayer, a religious act aimed at glorifying Krishna and, in fact, has a missionary focus, as it serves the goals of propagating the Hare Krishna faith and its corresponding way of life"; Society had agreed the event with the city authorities with the stated aims of "creating a celebratory, cheerful atmosphere in Kazan" and "promoting a healthy way of life"

Appeal: supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 7 September 2018, Supreme Court of the Republic of Tatarstan

66) 9 June 2018

Part 5

Name: Kudzai Nyamarebvu

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles

Court: Prioksky District Court, Nizhny Novgorod

Circumstances: Zimbabwean medical student charged because of interview she had given about an earlier prosecution, which was published on the Pentecostal Union's website

Appeal: unsuccessful – 9 August 2018, Nizhny Novgorod Regional Court; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 20 December 2018, Nizhny Novgorod Regional Court

67) 9 June 2018

Name: Yekaterina Rybina

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Kaluga District Magistrate's Court No. 6/51, Kaluga Region

Circumstances: member of Grace Protestant church charged for posting an invitation to a church event on a Christian VKontakte group, without giving her religious organisation's full official name and without having the necessary authorising documents for missionary activity

Appeal: unsuccessful – 9 August 2018, Kaluga District Court, Kaluga Region

68) 13 June 2018

Name: V.V. Smolensky

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Rossosh District Magistrate's Court No. 7, Voronezh Region

Circumstances: same case as Kruchinin, Polozov, Lysak, Mokshin, and Vorobyov (below) – member of unregistered Baptist religious group charged for distributing Bibles and other religious literature among residents of Sergeyevka village, accompanied by five others – without having submitted notification of the creation of a religious group and without authorising documents from a religious association

Appeal: none

69) 13 July 2018

Name: S.S. Kruchinin

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Rossosh District Magistrate's Court No. 7, Voronezh Region

Circumstances: same case as Smolensky (above) and Polozov, Lysak, Mokshin, and Vorobyov (below) – unregistered Baptist

Appeal: none

70) 13 July 2018

Name: A.V. Polozov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Rossosh District Magistrate's Court No. 7, Voronezh Region

Circumstances: same case as Smolensky and Kruchinin (above) and Lysak, Mokshin, and Vorobyov (below) – unregistered Baptist

Appeal: none

71) 13 July 2018

Name: P.V. Lysak

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Rossosh District Magistrate's Court No. 7, Voronezh Region

Circumstances: same case as Smolensky, Kruchinin, and Polozov (above) and Mokshin and Vorobyov (below) – unregistered Baptist

Appeal: none

72) 13 July 2018

Name: V.I. Mokshin

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Rossosh District Magistrate's Court No. 7, Voronezh Region

Circumstances: same case as Smolensky, Kruchinin, Polozov, and Lysak (above) and Vorobyov (below) – unregistered Baptist

Appeal: none

73) 13 July 2018

Name: I.V. Vorobyov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Rossosh District Magistrate's Court No. 7, Voronezh Region

Circumstances: same case as Smolensky, Kruchinin, Polozov, Lysak, and Mokshin (above) – unregistered Baptist

Appeal: none

74) 3 July 2018

Name: Vitaly Boksha

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Mglin District Court, Bryansk Region

Circumstances: unregistered Baptist charged for holding meetings for worship in residential premises without authorising documents from a religious group/organisation or having notified the Justice Ministry of the existence of a religious group; also accused of distributing information about Baptist beliefs among his neighbours, in the form of religious calendars, books, and CDs, and inviting them to worship

Appeal: successful on technical grounds – 20 August 2018, Bryansk Regional Court

75) 4 July 2018

Name: Yury Kozhevator

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Krasny Kholm District Magistrate's Court, Tver Region

Circumstances: member of Holy Grace Presbyterian Church charged for giving a man a religious book, which was not marked with the full official name of a religious organisation; the man gave the book to the police; the police found several boxes of New Testaments and Psalms in defendant's car; defendant argued that he gave the book to the man on his own behalf, not as a representative of any religious association, and was therefore not carrying out missionary activity

Appeal: successful (statute of limitations) – 23 August 2018, Krany Kholm District Court, Tver Region

76) 4 July 2018

Name: Aleksandr Lepshin

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Yuzhnouralsk Magistrate's Court No. 1, Chelyabinsk Region

Circumstances: pastor of Pentecostal "Cornerstone" church charged for conducting regular meetings for worship in rented premises

and advertising these on an openly accessible VKontakte page, without having notified the authorities of the creation of a religious group; case initiated after prosecutor's office inspection of church premises

Appeal: none

77) 4 July 2018

Part 5

Name: Uulu Aytказы

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles plus deportation (monitored autonomous departure)

Court: Blagoveshchensk City Court, Amur Region

Circumstances: same case as Satybaldiyev (below); Muslim Kyrgyz citizen charged for holding prayers together with acquaintances; police found that he "not being the imam of a Muslim mosque, not officially part of a religious organisation, conducted the rite of 'Friday prayer' in the presence of congregation members" on residential premises (where "missionary activity" is forbidden) and without any authorising document from a religious group or evidence of notification to the authorities of the existence of a religious group

Appeal: none

78) 4 July 2018

Part 5

Name: Yslambek Satybaldiyev

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles plus deportation (monitored autonomous departure)

Court: Blagoveshchensk City Court, Amur Region

Circumstances: same case as Aytказы (above); Muslim Kyrgyz citizen charged for holding prayers together with acquaintances; police found that he "not being the imam of a Muslim mosque, not officially part of a religious organisation, conducted the rite of 'Friday prayer' in the presence of congregation members" on residential premises (where "missionary activity" is forbidden) and without any authorising document from a religious group or evidence of notification to the authorities of the existence of a religious group

Appeal: none

79) 5 July 2018

Name: Rose of Eden Evangelical Church

Punishment: 50,000 Roubles

Court: Myski District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Kemerovo Region

Circumstances: church charged for advertising meetings for worship and youth group meetings online, and holding meetings for worship and keeping religious literature on premises "accessible to all"; the FSB security service informed the ordinary police; appeal judge makes reference to Constitutional Court's definition of missionary activity and concludes that the church's activities lack the "system-defining feature" of missionary activity, ie. the goal of involving non-members

Appeal: supervisory appeal successful – 21 November 2018, Kemerovo Regional Court

80) 5 July 2018

Name: Dmitry Napriyenko

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Myski District Magistrate's Court No. 1, Kemerovo Region

Circumstances: Protestant pastor – same case as Rose of Eden church (above)

Appeal: supervisory appeal successful – 30 October 2018, Kemerovo Regional Court

81) 18 July 2018

Name: I.A. Mamayev

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Salavat Magistrate's Court No. 2, Republic of Bashkortostan

Circumstances: Council of Churches Baptist charged for distributing the newspaper "Do you believe?", copies of the Gospels, and other Christian literature (exact circumstances unknown), without necessary authorising documents from a religious association; defendant "implemented his beliefs, spread his religious views and convictions...with the aim of involving outsiders in the activities of the association through newspapers, magazines, and beliefs"

Appeal: unsuccessful – 13 August 2018, Salavat City Court, Republic of Bashkortostan

82) 23 July 2018

Name: N.M. Belkov

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Labytnangi Magistrate's Court No. 1 /2, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region

Circumstances: Christian (affiliation unknown) charged for knocking on a stranger's door, talking to her about God and religion, and showing her text on his phone – ie. missionary activity on residential premises; defendant denies claiming he was a representative of a religious organisation; judge decides that, while defendant had a conversation on religious themes, there is no evidence that he was representing a religious association or that he gave out any information about a religious association, and therefore no evidence of missionary activity

Appeal: none

83) 24 July 2018

Name: Aleksandr Protsenko

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Zavitinsk District Magistrate's Court, Amur Region

Circumstances: unregistered Baptist pastor charged because he "carried out missionary activity on residential premises", ie. held a meeting for worship in a home belonging to his wife

Appeal: successful – 28 August 2018, Zavitinsk District Court, Amur Region

84) 25 July 2018

Name: Jesus Embassy Church (local religious organisation)

Punishment: 100,000 Roubles

Court: Moscow District Magistrate's Court No. 6, Nizhny Novgorod

Circumstances: Pentecostal church charged for allowing foreign citizens on student visas to carry out missionary activity on its behalf without authorising documents; details unspecified

Appeal: unsuccessful – 17 September 2018, Moscow District Court, Nizhny Novgorod; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 10 December 2018, Nizhny Novgorod Regional Court

85) 1 August 2018

Name: A.E. Nazarov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: October District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Saratov

Circumstances: member of Pentecostal religious group charged for carrying out, on residential premises, unspecified "missionary activity, by means of disseminating information about the religion of 'Evangelical Christians – Pentecostals' among people who are not participants (members, followers) of the religious association, with the aim of involving these people as [members]" – without having submitted notification of the existence of a religious group

Appeal: none

86) 2 August 2018

Name: Edgar Kozhevnikov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Noyabrsk Magistrate's Court No. 1, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent; defendant argued that he was not acting on behalf of any religious association, only holding a procession (at a football stadium) for the purpose of religious worship, "giving pleasure to the townspeople", and "strengthening Russian-Indian relations"; event agreed with municipal authorities, but defendant accused of disseminating information about "Krishnaism" without the required documentation from his religious organisation, by means of distributing "cult food", singing mantras, and holding religious rites

Appeal: none

87) 10 August 2018

Name: unknown man

Punishment: none – case sent back

Court: Abakan Magistrate's Court No. 3, Republic of Khakasiya

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent – public event; details unknown

Appeal: none

88) 23 August 2018

Name: V.V. Plotnikov

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Verkhnekamsk District Magistrate's Court No. 5, Kirov Region

Circumstances: unknown religious affiliation; defendant charged for carrying out (unspecified) missionary activity in the stairwell of a block of flats without the necessary written authorisation from a religious association; judge concludes that the police later altered the report of the alleged offence in the defendant's absence and rules that no offence was committed, as evidence obtained in violation of the law is inadmissible

Appeal: none

89) 27 August 2018

Name: Safakul Children's Spiritual-Educational Centre

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Safakulevo District Magistrate's Court No. 22, Kurgan Region

Circumstances: Muslim educational centre (registered as public, not religious organisation) charged for holding Friday prayers; director points out that nobody is specially invited to these and the children are not obliged to attend; judge notes that, by definition, missionary activity is carried out by a religious association, which the Centre is not, and consists not of "any dissemination of information about beliefs .. but public dissemination"

Appeal: by prosecution, unsuccessful – 27 September 2018, Safakulevo District Court, Kurgan Region

90) 18 September 2018

Name: Aleksandr Latyshev

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Shakhunya District Magistrate's Court No. 1/2, Nizhny Novgorod Region

Circumstances: member of unregistered Baptist community charged for handing out religious literature from a table outside a shopping centre; witness asked if he had permission, and on hearing that he did not, called the police

Appeal: unsuccessful – 16 November 2018, Shakhunya District Court; supervisory appeal unsuccessful – 14 February 2019, Nizhny Novgorod Regional Court

91) 19 September 2018

Name: Aleksei Parshin

Punishment: unknown fine

Court: Railway District Magistrate's Court No. 6, Chita

Circumstances: member of Pentecostal New Generation church charged because, without authorising documents, he "organised a religious group of people in difficult life situations [homeless people, alcoholics, drug addicts]" in his home, where he "carried out the study of religious doctrine" with them – reported by unspecified party to the Interior Ministry's Centre for Countering Extremism, which led to inspection; defendant argued that at the moment of inspection, the only people present were members of the church

Appeal: unsuccessful – 24 October 2018, Railway District Court, Chita; supervisory appeal rejected without consideration – 15 November 2018, Zabaykalsk Regional Court

92) 19 September 2018

Part 5

Name: Helmut Boehringer

Punishment: 30,000 Roubles – no deportation

Court: Tavda District Court, Sverdlovsk Region

Circumstances: Baptist Union pastor and German citizen – gave brochure on the streets to (among others) 11-year-old girl

Appeal: none

93) 30 October 2018

Name: Taygib Gadzhiyev

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Novosil District Magistrate's Court, Oryol Region

Circumstances: Muslim charged for holding Friday prayers and reading a sermon without the necessary authorising documents for "missionary activity"; defendant argued that he was not performing missionary activity – prayers were attended only by Muslims, who learned of the meeting for worship only from each other, and there was no attempt to involve non-Muslims; judge makes reference to Constitutional Court definition, and concludes that the police inspection report did not show that any non-Muslims were present or that any religious literature was given to non-Muslims, and that therefore the defendant did not seek to involve anybody in his religious association

Appeal: by prosecution, unsuccessful – 4 December 2018, Novosil District Court, Oryol Region

94) 20 November 2018

Name: A.V. Isekeyev

Punishment: none – case sent back and not resubmitted

Court: October District Magistrate's Court No. 64, Kirov

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent charged for public procession in Vladikavkaz – details unknown

Appeal: none

95) 21 November 2018

Name: V.N. Chernov

Punishment: none – case transferred to different jurisdiction but not resubmitted

Court: October District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Penza

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent charged for public procession in Vladikavkaz – details unknown

Appeal: none

96) 21 November 2018

Name: V.F. Feklistov

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Novoshakhtinsk District Magistrate's Court No. 7, Rostov Region

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent charged for public procession in Vladikavkaz, filmed by officers of police Centre for Countering Extremism; judge rules that video showing the defendant and others dancing and drumming is not evidence of missionary activity, and that the police report failed to describe the alleged offence adequately

Appeal: none

97) 21 November 2018

Name: Vladimir Chukhontsev

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Lenin District Magistrate's Court No. 4, Magnitogorsk

Circumstances: unregistered Baptist pastor charged for holding regular meetings for worship and other religious meetings in a private house (belonging to his aunt), without having notified the authorities of the creation of a religious group, and without documentation authorising missionary activity from any religious group or organisation; police inspection found a library of religious books and a hall equipped with benches, a lectern, musical instruments, and audio-visual equipment

Appeal: unsuccessful – 20 February 2019, Lenin District Court, Magnitogorsk

98) 23 November 2018

Name: Vladimir Chibizov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Buguruslan District Magistrate's Court No. 3, Orenburg Region

Circumstances: unregistered Baptist charged for handing out the newspaper "Do you believe?" in a marketplace, without authorising documents from his religious group

Appeal: unsuccessful – 14 December 2018, Buguruslan District Court

99) 27 November 2018

Name: A.N. Mitusov

Punishment: none – acquitted

Court: Severodvinsk Magistrate's Court No. 10, Arkhangelsk Region

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent charged for public procession in Vladikavkaz – details unknown

Appeal: none

100) 28 November 2018

Name: Sh. A. Tashmatov

Punishment: unknown

Court: Surgut Magistrate's Court No. 2, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region

Circumstances: Muslim; details unknown

Appeal: none

101) 29 November 2018

Name: Eldar Akhundov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Pyt-Yakh Magistrate's Court No. 1, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region

Circumstances: unregistered Baptist charged for talking about religion with a man who recorded their conversations and later reported him to the police Centre for Countering Extremism – defendant approached at home by stranger who wanted spiritual help; defendant talked with him twice, invited him to meetings for worship, and gave him a leaflet (which was later presented as evidence in court)

Appeal: successful – 12 February 2019, Pyt-Yakh City Court, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region

102) 29 November 2018

Name: N.I. Porokhin

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Kopeysk Magistrate's Court No. 3, Chelyabinsk Region

Circumstances: unregistered Baptist pastor charged for holding meetings for worship and offering religious literature inside his community's building without having submitted notification of a religious group's existence

Appeal: unsuccessful – 18 January 2019, Kopeysk City Court, Chelyabinsk Region

103) Late November/early December

Name: Gennady Ochirov

Punishment: unknown

Court: unknown Barguzin District Magistrate's Court, Republic of Buryatiya

Circumstances: unknown

Appeal: decision upheld – 22 January 2019, Barguzin District Court, Republic of Buryatiya

104) 4 December 2018

Name: Andrey Karayev

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Yuzhnouralsk Magistrate's Court No. 2, Chelyabinsk Region

Circumstances: Pentecostal pastor charged for holding meetings for worship of a local New Generation religious group (interpreted as missionary activity) without having notified the authorities of the existence of a religious group; defendant did have documentation authorising missionary activity on behalf of the New Generation centralised religious organisation

Appeal: unsuccessful – 21 February 2019, Yuzhnouralsk City Court, Chelyabinsk Region; supervisory appeal lodged at Chelyabinsk Regional Court on 20 March 2019 (outcome unknown)

105) 11 December 2018

Name: Nikolai Kryukov

Punishment: 5,000 Roubles

Court: Khabarovsk District Magistrate's Court No. 69, Khabarovsk Region

Circumstances: Hare Krishna adherent charged for handing out books and talking about beliefs in a public square; defendant refers to Constitutional Court ruling of 13 March 2018 re. "system-defining" characteristics of missionary activity and denied trying to involve other people in any religious association; defendant was in possession of written authorisation to carry out missionary activity on behalf of a religious group, but "this did not help", according to lawyer; two witnesses stated that defendant had approached them to talk about his faith and offer them books for 100 Roubles – judge concludes that this is evidence of trying to involve people as members of a religious association

Appeal: none

(END)

Full reports on freedom of thought, conscience and belief in Russia
(<http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?query=&religion=all&country=10>)

For more background see Forum 18's survey of the general state of freedom of religion and belief in Russia
(http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2246), as well as Forum 18's survey of the dramatic decline in this freedom related to Russia's Extremism Law (http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2215).

A personal commentary by Alexander Verkhovsky, Director of the SOVA Center for Information and Analysis
<http://www.sova-center.ru>, about the systemic problems of Russian anti-extremism legislation
(http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1468)

Forum 18's compilation of Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) freedom of religion or belief commitments
(http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1351)

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