

7 May 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned organisations and individuals, express our solidarity with Ivan Pavlov, a Russian human rights activist and lawyer, who has been charged under Article 310 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code which makes it a crime to disclose data of a preliminary investigation which has been declared secret.

Pavlov was detained on Friday, 30 April 2021, and, although he was later released by order of a judge, he has been banned from using the telephone or Internet. His hotel room in Moscow and home were also searched by Russia's Federal Security Services (FSB), the main organisation to emerge as a successor to the KGB. Breach of Article 310 can lead to a fine or harsher sanctions, such as corrective labour for a term of up to two years. But the real aim may be simply to ban Pavlov from working as a lawyer.

It is not difficult to understand this as a possible motivation for the Russian authorities, given Pavlov's long-standing and effective career as a human rights advocate. Among other things, he heads Team 29, a legal defence organisation that is named after the article in the Russian Constitution which guarantees freedom of expression and the right to access information held by public authorities or the right to information. Pavlov has also been an active member for many years of the Freedom of Information Advocates Network ([FOIANet](#)), the leading global network of right to information activists.

The most immediate reason for the Russian authorities going after Pavlov was likely Team 29's role in defending Alexey Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) and campaign offices against criminal accusations of advocating extremism. Those charges represent an expansion of the crackdown against Navalny, who was imprisoned immediately following his return to Russia in January 2021. The measures against Pavlov are especially concerning since, until now, lawyers had largely been free to defend their clients, even as government measures against the opposition have intensified.

There is perhaps a certain irony to Pavlov being charged under Article 310 given his consistent struggle against undue secrecy, including in the criminal justice system. Indeed, just the day before he was charged Pavlov accused the authorities of abusing secrecy rules in the extremism case and filed a legal case to declare those materials public.

These actions against Pavlov represent a blatant abuse of his rights to freedom of expression and criminal due process, as well as, more generally, the rule of law, including respect for the independence of lawyers. We call on members of the international community to do all that they can to defend Pavlov's rights and, by extension, those of all Russians.

1. Access Info Europe, Spain

2. Access to Information Commission of Afghanistan
3. Access to Information Programme (AIP), Bulgaria
4. Advocacy and Policy Institute (API), Secretariat of the CSO Access to Information Working Group, Cambodia
5. Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC), Uganda
6. African Centre for Media & Information Literacy (AFRICMIL), Nigeria
7. Albanian Media Institute, Albania
8. Alexander Kashumov, Attorney-at-Law and Head of Legal Team, Access to Information Programme, Bulgaria
9. Dr. Andrew Scott, Associate Professor, Department of Law, London School of Economics
10. Anjali Bhardwaj, Satark Nagrik Sangathan, India
11. Anneters Global Humanitarian Foundation, Nigeria
12. Anti-Corruption Organization (AWTAD), Yemen
13. ARTICLE 19, United Kingdom
14. Association of Caribbean Media Workers
15. Bashir Ahmad, Advocate, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, India
16. Biplob Karmakar, Bangladesh
17. Campaign for Freedom of Information, United Kingdom
18. Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland
19. Care for the Elderly Intellectuals, Azerbaijan
20. Centre for Youth and Children Affairs, Malawi
21. Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding (CEMESP), Liberia
22. Centre for Independent Journalism, Malaysia
23. Centre for Law and Democracy, Canada
24. Centre for Media Freedom, Morocco
25. Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Pakistan
26. Citizens Network Watchdog Poland
27. Codru Vrabie, Independent Trainer and Consultant, Romania
28. Community Development Initiative (CDI), Nigeria
29. Community Initiative Action Group (CIAG K), Kenya
30. Community Media Solutions, United Kingdom
31. David A. Schulz, Media Freedom & Information Access Clinic, United States
32. DigitalSENSE Africa, Nigeria
33. Diritto Di Sapere, Italy
34. Eduardo Bertoni, Former Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression at the Organization of American States, Argentina
35. ePanstwo Foundation, Poland
36. Eugenia Braguinsky, Argentina
37. European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)
38. Fabiano Angélico, Anticorruption and Transparency Researcher, Brazil
39. Dr. Felisa Tibbitts, Chair in Human Rights Education, Utrecht University (Netherlands)
40. Fernanda San Martin Carrasco, Former MP, Bolivia
41. Free Press Unlimited (FPU), the Netherlands
42. Freedom Forum, Nepal

43. Forum Informationsfreiheit, Austria
44. Fundación Ciudadano 12, Chile
45. Gabriela Morales Martínez, Researcher and Professor, México
46. Gergana Jouleva, FOI Advocate and Executive Director of Access to Information Programme, Bulgaria
47. Gregory Michener, Professor, FGV-EBAPE, Rio de Janeiro, Director, Public Transparency Program FGV, Brazil
48. Halim, Barrister-at-Law, Chairman, CCB Foundation, RTI Activist, Author of Book on Bangladesh RTI Commission
49. Human Rights Monitoring Institute, Lithuania
50. IFEX, Canada
51. Indonesian Center for Women Development (P3I - ICWD)
52. Institute for Research, Advocacy and Development (IRADA), Pakistan
53. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, Georgia
54. Institute of Transparency, Access to Public Information, Personal Data Protection and Accountability, Mexico City
55. International Media Support, Denmark
56. James L. Turk, Director, Centre for Free Expression, Ryerson University, Canada
57. Jammu & Kashmir RTI Foundation, India
58. Jammu & Kashmir Right to Information Movement, India
59. Jordan Transparency Center
60. K-Monitor, Hungary
61. Ken Rubin, Investigative Researcher and FOI/RTI User, Canada
62. Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena, Lawyer & Columnist, Sri Lanka
63. Kory Africa, Cameroon and United States
64. Legal Awareness for Nigerian Women, Nigeria
65. Lorelei Kelly, Pro-democracy Activist, United States
66. Maeve McDonagh, Emeritus Professor, Ireland
67. Michael Karanicolas, Executive Director, UCLA Institute for Technology, Law & Policy, United States
68. Media Diversity Institute (MDI), United Kingdom
69. Media Rights Agenda (MRA), Nigeria
70. Megan Waugh, Postgraduate Researcher, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
71. Mogens Schmidt, Former Director at UNESCO, Denmark
72. Movement for Freedom of Information, Israel
73. MuckRock, United States
74. Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Social Activist and RTI Campaigner, India
75. Nawa-I-Ahmed Pur Sharqia, Daily Newspaper, Pakistan
76. Network for affirmation NGO Sector (Mreza Za Afirmaciju Nevladinog Sektora, MANS), Montenegro
77. Nurul Alam Masud, Chief Executive, Participatory Research Action Network (PRAAN), Bangladesh
78. Oldrich Kuzilek, Consultant for the Right to Information, Czech Republic
79. Open Knowledge Foundation Germany
80. Participatory Research Action Network (PRAAN), Bangladesh
81. Patricia Jonason, Law Professor, Sweden

82. Press Institute of Mongolia
83. Redouane Bosnina, Club of Judicial Officers, Morocco
84. Rural Area Development Programme (RADP), Nepal
85. Rural Infrastructure and Human Resource Development Organisation (RIHRDO), Pakistan
86. Rural Media Network Pakistan (RMNP)
87. Said Essoulami, Media Freedom and Access to Information Consultant, Morocco
88. Save the Climate, Democratic Republic of the Congo
89. Dr. Shamsul Bari, Barrister-at-Law and Right to Information Activist, Bangladesh
90. Society for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development (SEED), Nigeria
91. Dr. Sonia Randhawa, Media Freedom Advocate, Malaysia
92. Stanley Tromp, Journalist, FOI expert, Author of Fallen Behind: Canada's Access to Information Act in the World Context, Canada
93. Suma Ciudadana, Peru
94. Syed Kausar Abbas, Journalist, Pakistan
95. Tanzania Citizens' Information Bureau
96. Taranath Dahal, RTI Activist and Senior Journalist, Nepal
97. The Accountability Network, Mexico
98. The Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, Malta
99. Toby McIntosh, Eyeonglobaltransparency.net, United States
100. Tom Blanton, National Security Archive, George Washington University, United States
101. Transparency International
102. Vikas Prakash Joshi, Freelance Journalist, Writer and FOI Professional, India
103. Women in Media Communication Initiative (WIM), Nigeria
104. Zahid Abdullah, Human Rights, Right to Information and Disabled Rights Activist, Pakistan