

Svoboda Alliance AU&NZ



Non-for-profit organisations

Rallies and initiatives of pro-democratic Russians



- in support of Alexei Navalny and other leaders of opposition
- in support of political prisoners
- against election fraud and oppression of political opposition
- **against the military aggression and occupation of Ukraine by the Russian army**

Rallies in all major cities of Australia and New Zealand



We support other communities



Humanitarian aid for Ukraine



- Raising aid for volunteers in Ukraine and other countries (for refugees)
- Raising donations for specific cities (Kharkiv, Chernivtsi, Kyiv, Mykolaiv)
- Charity buy-and-sell projects
- Sharing info about various charity programs

The new flag



Pro-democratic and anti-militaristic Russians use white-blue-white flags to identify themselves

Already banned in Russia!



Russians around the world use this flag!



Fighting Kremlin propaganda

- A year-long struggle to stop the SBS from rebroadcasting a major Kremlin propaganda channel, NTV
- We participated in community consultations and sent the strong message that NTV should be banned from broadcasting for failing our community values
- **Only after the war has begun, the SBS stopped their broadcast**

Open Letter to SBS

Representatives of the Russian-speaking community who share Australian values, respect democratic freedoms and universal human rights petition SBS to remove the NTV news program from its programming schedule in Russian.

NTV is one of the key tools of pro-Kremlin propaganda in Russia and the continued broadcasting of its news program contributes to the popularisation of Putin's autocratic regime here in Australia and undermines pro-democracy values.

NTV news content contains anti-Western propaganda that builds an image of Australia as hostile to the Russian nation due to its alliance with the US and other Western countries. Misinformation and outright false facts are regularly included in news programs, including a very distorted portrayal of the hostilities in Eastern Ukraine. With the Russian government unconditionally denying the results of the JIT investigation that indicates MH17 was shot down by the pro-Russian separatists, NTV stands by the official Kremlin line, reporting on purported Western conspiracy against Russia. In recent years, the persecution of opposition politicians as well as ordinary people expressing their discontent with the Russian government has increased dramatically. Meanwhile, the Kremlin-affiliated media, including NTV, continue to depict the opposition as "servants of the West who want to collapse and destroy Russia."

NTV ownership is a further issue of serious concern. NTV is fully controlled by the largest Russian media group, Gazprom media, owned by Gazprom bank and Gazprom. The CEO of Gazprom, Alexei Miller, has been included in the US sanctions list since 2018 in connection

SBS Radio | Frank Mathisen <frank.mathisen@sbs.com.au>
Thu 10/7/2021 11:59 AM
To: Ilya Fomin

INVITATION to:
**Russian Community Consultation with
SBS Radio on 14 October 2021**

JOIN US
Online via Webex, at 5:50 pm

Dear Ilya,

Recently, I sent you the below invitation for a community consultation with SBS Radio about SBS Russian. Please let us know if you are available to attend.

SBS Director of Audio and Language Content, **David Hua**, would like to invite you to a community meeting together with other key members of the Russian-speaking community in Australia.

We demand SBS to stop broadcasting NTV NOW >

Petr Kuzmin <petrkuzmin@gmail.com>

09:22 (0 minutes ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

to David

Hello David,

On behalf of all Russians with democratic values and conscience in Australia, I demand that SBS management ceases its rebroadcasts of NTV News immediately and makes a public statement to this effect.

If the start of a full-scale war against Ukraine, supported right now by a massive propaganda campaign in which NTV is a leading participant, is not a good enough reason for SBS management, then what else do you need?

The situation is as black-and-white as it will ever be. It's no longer a business decision or a political decision - it's a moral choice that everyone must now make: you are either actively resisting Putin's fascist regime or you're supporting its aggression against Ukraine and the rest of the civilized world. There is no longer any middle ground.

Any hesitation or delay right now will be on your conscience. The blood of innocent men, women and children will be on your conscience. And we will remind you of it.

Best regards,
Petr Kuzmin
A representative of the Russian Australian anti-war community

Parliament run in 2021

- **Statistical analysis shows, Putin's United Russia stole ~16% of votes in 2011, 2016, 2021 to hold the majority of seats**
- A Russian senate representative claimed they have talked to all so-called *Russian councils* abroad about the “threats” from the Western countries
- A world-wide network of independent poll watchers, including three of us in Sydney
- Russians in many countries including Australia chose to follow the Alexei Navalny's Smart Voting strategy.
- **Russians abroad want to unite**



The Svoboda Alliance ensured there was no election fraud in Sydney. Putin's party didn't win.

Our call to the Australian govt

- **We called the govt to condemn the fraud during the elections**
- We planned it to be the first step to impose sanctions against the Russian politicians
- In brief, the answer said that we asked to condemn the violation of voting rights in Russia, and they had already condemned the poisoning of Mr Alexei Navalny

Petition EN3459 - Condemn voting rights violations in the 2021 Russian Parliament elections

Petition Status

The petition has been **responded to** by the Minister responsible



Petition Reason

The Parliament elections in Russia on 17-19 September 2021 were held with significant violations of the democratic electoral processes. The access to information for the voters was limited by a continuing crackdown on opposition politicians, civil society organisations and independent media. The elections took place with thousands of well-documented cases of ballot box stuffing, falsification of vote count protocols and physical violence against independent election observers and poll workers. The outcome of 8 out of 15 races in Moscow was reversed in favour of pro-Kremlin candidates using an electronic

A new petition

- We call to the Australian govt to **declare the Putin's pocket party – United Russia – a terrorist organisation** and freeze their assets
- The petition was published few days ago and is open for signatures

Petition EN4088 - Declare Putin's United Russia terrorist organisation and freeze their assets

Petition Status

The petition is currently **open** for signatures



OPEN



CLOSED



PRESENTED



RESPONDED

Petition Reason

United Russia is a major Russian political party which backs Vladimir Putin and is responsible for legislative approval of numerous laws attacking freedom of speech and personal freedoms, free and fair electoral process, undermining rights of LGBTQ and national minorities and persecution of political opposition. The Party's members are involved in aggressive anti-western rhetoric and responsible for legislative enactment of the military invasions of Ukraine and Georgia, as well as financial support of the Belarus authoritative leader Alexander Lukashenko and multiple far right groups and parties in other countries.

Key inputs from us

- **Inform Russians about the real situation using non-banned media and social networks (VKontakte, Odnoklassniki)**
 - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, BBC, all independent Russian media are banned!
- **Identification of pro-Kremlin activists and their links to the Kremlin**
- **Sharing confidential information about assets of the Putin's crew written in the names of proxy people in different countries**
- **Meetings with Australian politicians to discuss the possible actions**
- **Identification of appropriate targets for sanctions to force Russia to cease the fire and change the government**

Why do Russians tolerate the govt?

- 6 800 000 Russians serve in the army, law enforcement, private security
- The size of the able-bodied population is 61 500 000 people
- <0.5% of court cases ended in acquittal

СКОЛЬКО В СТРАНЕ «СИЛОВИКОВ»



© picture-alliance/dpa/TASS/K. Sharifulin

Why do Russians tolerate the govt?

- Long history of suppression of non-govt-led associations
- Suppression of independent economic activities, repressions against entrepreneurs and businesses not cooperating with the government
- No culture of public assemblies
- #52 Human Development Index
- #47 Good Country Index
- #117 World Giving Index - no altruism!
- Extremely individualistic society
- Collectivism is not helping those weak but punishing those successful



The Novocherkassk massacre in 1962. 26 people were shot according to the official data

Why do Russians tolerate the govt?

- High level of militarisation in the society since childhood ruins family ties
- Effective anti-western propaganda machine. Without VPN nobody in Russia has access to independent sources of information.

- #150 Press Freedom Index
In between 2000 and 2018, a journalist was killed every 2 months



To VPN or not to VPN

- During crisis, people without strong horizontal or family ties tend to unite around the govt
- They say, up to 70% of Russians support the “special operation”
- But another survey says, 95% refused to answer the questions about war
- Anyway, **the “silent majority” is the main reason the war and repressions are continuing**



How to recognise pro-Kremlin people?



V and Z letters, like on this car
in Auckland



Small local media outlets with
specific content



Initiatives run with the RARC
and under the tricolour are
highly likely to be pro-Kremlin



Aussie Cossack

154K subscribers



Local activists like Simeon Boikov. This is his photo
with Igor Girkin, a guy involved into MH17 downing

Effective sanction policy

- **Sanctions should motivate individuals to act rather than call to class solidarity**
- A peace treaty won't end the Kremlin's aggression and imperialistic ambitions. **The Kremlin must fall.**
- All assets and sources of income of the Kremlin elites including those from sales of oil and gas should be seized or reduced
- Only when the govt won't be able to finance the police and the army, the ruler will change
- We must ensure nobody escapes a trial and punishment if guilty

Key suggestions from us

- Russians associated with the Putin's regime should be banned from entry and having assets in democratic countries. The nationals of other countries helping them to hide their assets should be tried and prosecuted
- A pathway to political asylum for Russian and Belarusian activists – if they have already been prosecuted or threatened for anti-war and pro-democratic position and may face a long prison term
- Careful targeting of pro-Kremlin activists and organisations abroad as Kremlin propaganda inside and outside Russia must not be able to use the “Russophobia” narrative

Don't be one step behind!

- Totalitarian govt doesn't start with anti-human mottos and wars, but it finishes with them. It happens when a political force decides their values and ideas are more important than the others' values. Like when they falsify the election results.
- Strict sanctions should had been imposed not later than 2011. The massive election fraud allowed the Putin's pocket party – United Russia – to get the majority of seats for the first time and facilitate the legislative repression and military machine
- We saw a major hesitation to impose strict sanctions since the invasion of Georgia in 2008 and of Ukraine in 2014. Does it align with the democratic values within the UN and the PACE? **The Putin's govt used this hesitation to legitimate its actions.**
- Long term strategic perspective instead of short term economic profit.

Svoboda Alliance AU&NZ

- **Community organisations** in NSW, Vic and SA with local representatives in WA, Qld and NZ
- **We are networking** with organisations and activists in the US, Canada, Europe to promote the **pro-democratic and anti-Putin regime message** across Russian-speaking communities. Many of us have been strongly opposing Putin's regime for over a decade.
- **We organise rallies and protests** in regard to oppression of political freedoms and government violence in Russia, **coordinate donations** to Russian independent media, **facilitate humanitarian assistance** and moral support to political prisoners and their families in Russia
- **We work with Australian politicians** to support the sanctions against the Putin's regime and his associates and **launch the Federal Parliament petitions** to address human rights violations and war crimes of Putin's regime. **We bring community attention to agents of pro-Putin propaganda. We work on lists of candidates for the recently adopted Magnitsky act.**
- **We coordinate the Russian-speaking community effort in responding to Ukrainian refugee and military crisis** via social media and directly collecting/sending the humanitarian aid