

# News From Russia: What You Missed Over the Weekend

December 16, 2019



A floating dock with a scrapped Russian Navy submarine sunk in the Crimean port city of Sevastopol, causing an oil spill. **Sergei Malgavko / TASS**

## **Sunken dock**

A floating dock with a scrapped Russian Navy submarine has sunk in the Crimean port city of Sevastopol.

The PD-16 dock and B-380 diesel submarine's sinking caused an oil spill, Interfax [cited](#) the acting governor as saying.

## **Free the sisters**

Activists in Moscow and at least seven other Russian cities [staged pickets](#) in support of three sisters facing up to 20 years in prison for killing their abusive father.

**Embed:**

В Петербурге проходит акция в поддержку сестер Хачатурян, организаторами которой выступила «Восьмая инициативная группа». Фото: «Северо-Запад. МБХ медиа» [pic.twitter.com/WexlZLFNld](https://pic.twitter.com/WexlZLFNld)

— МБХ Медиа (@MBKhMedia) [December 14, 2019](#)

Krestina, Angelina and Maria Khachaturyan killed their father Mikhail Khachaturyan in July 2018 after he had subjected them to years of physical, mental and sexual abuse.

### **Moscow's garbage**

Moscow's authorities have [drafted](#) a waste disposal plan to transfer up to 60 million metric tons of garbage to nearby regions by 2029, with the [protest hotbed](#) in northwestern Russia omitted.

The absence of the former village of Shiyes from the draft does not mean that Moscow has abandoned plans to ship its waste there, an unnamed official in northwestern Russia's Arkhangelsk region [told](#) the RBC news website.

### **Love of smoke**

Around 30% of the Russian population are smokers, according to research by the Moscow School of Management Skolkovo private graduate business school [cited](#) by the state-run TASS news agency.

“Smoking tobacco is more widespread in Russia than in other countries,” said Olga Komarova, who heads the school's health development center.

### **Social media**

Russia has the world's second-highest share of internet users on social media — 78% behind Japan's 89% — according to [research](#) from the Moscow-based Higher School of Economics.

Russian internet users are more likely to access the internet through mobile phones than users in developed countries, RBC [cites](#) the HSE statistical studies institute's research as saying. However, they are less likely to buy online, check email, read ebooks or take online courses.

### **Transgender marriage**

Authorities in the city of Kazan have registered a transgender marriage, according to a marriage certificate and video [published](#) by the KazanFirst website.

The couple, Erika and Viktor, said the ceremony passed without incident.

*Includes reporting from Reuters.*

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