

Russian Soldier Given Lengthy Prison Term for Mass Shooting of Fellow Conscripts

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Ramil Shamsutdinov has said his actions were retaliation to hazing and bullying. **Yevgeny Yepanchintsev / TASS**

A young Russian conscript has been sentenced to 24 and a half years in prison Thursday for gunning down eight fellow soldiers in what he said was retaliation to hazing, Russian media [reported](#).

Ramil Shamsutdinov, 22, was arrested in the fall of 2019 on murder charges at a military base where he had served in the closed Far Eastern town of Gorny. He reportedly [testified](#) at the time that he opened fire after months of bullying by his superiors that culminated in rape threats left him with no other choice.

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A jury [convicted](#) Shamsutdinov late last month, but asked the judge not to give him a life sentence.

A military court in the Zabaikalsky region's administrative center of Chita ruled Thursday to sentence Shamsutdinov to 24 years and six months in a maximum-security penal colony, according to Interfax.

The court also partially upheld multimillion-ruble claims filed by the victims' families to compensate them for their moral injury.

The prosecution had requested a 25-year sentence.

The high-profile mass shooting left a stain on the Russian military's reputation following years of costly reforms that [claimed](#) to have stamped out a pervasive culture of hazing left over from the Soviet era.

A separate court ruling in March 2020 [sentenced](#) Shamsutdinov's fellow soldier to two years probation on hazing charges.

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