

Russia Jails Elderly Crimean Woman for 12 Years in Ukraine Spy Trial

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Hundreds of Crimeans, mostly Crimean Tatars, have been jailed on espionage and terrorism charges since Russia annexed the peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. **Peter Kovalyov / TASS**

A Russian-controlled court in Crimea [said](#) Monday it has jailed an elderly woman for 12 years after finding her guilty of spying for Ukraine.

The Sevastopol city court said in a statement that the woman — identified only by the initial D., her birth year of 1955 and residence of the town of Bakhchysarai — had been recruited into “secret cooperation” with the Ukrainian military and intelligence.

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“She collected information about the Black Sea Fleet’s aviation regiment,” the court said, accusing D. of collecting the fleet's peacetime call signs and other communications data.

The court said it found D. guilty of high treason last Wednesday and sentenced her to 12 years

in a penal colony.

The case was heard behind closed doors because it involved state secrets.

The state-run TASS news agency, citing unnamed law enforcement sources, [identified](#) the convicted spy as Galina Dovgopolaya.

The Crimean Human Rights Group [said](#) Russian authorities detained 66-year-old Dovgopolaya and transferred her under guard to Moscow in November 2019.

Hundreds of Crimeans, mostly Crimean Tatars, have been jailed on espionage and terrorism charges since Russia annexed the peninsula from Ukraine in 2014.

Rights groups accuse Russia of jailing ideological opponents there.

Crimea's largely bloodless annexation by militia forces who later turned out to be Russian troops was followed by war between pro-Russian separatists and government forces in eastern Ukraine that has claimed more than 13,000 lives.

Europe's human rights court [ruled](#) in January to admit Ukraine's complaint against Russian human rights violations in Crimea in 2014-2015. The court said it will not rule on whether Crimea's annexation was legal under international law.

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