

Prosecutors Seek 7.5-Year Prison Sentence for Russian Singer Who Burnt His Passport

December 20, 2024



Russian singer Eduard Sharlot. **Albert Dzen / TASS**

Russian state prosecutors requested a nearly eight-year prison sentence for singer Eduard Sharlot on charges of justifying Nazism and insulting religious feelings, the Interfax news agency [reported](#) Friday.

Sharlot was arrested last year after returning to Russia from Armenia, where he had posted videos of himself burning his passport and nailing Patriarch Kirill's portrait to a cross in opposition to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

He later [sent](#) a letter to Russia's Orthodox Church leader seeking repentance and vowed to devote his career to patriotism. The singer also [issued](#) an apology to Patriarch Kirill and President Vladimir Putin, as well as to other Kremlin-aligned figures, during a court appearance.

Sharlot claimed to have been “dazed by American propaganda” when deciding to burn his passport on camera, telling a judge earlier this year that he had been a “lost man.”

Prosecutors on Friday asked a judge to sentence him to seven years and five months at a medium-security prison, as well as impose a fine of around 300,000 rubles (\$2,913). The human rights group Memorial has [designated](#) Sharlot as a political prisoner.

Russia’s state financial watchdog Rosfinmonitoring added the singer to its list of “terrorists and extremists” in July, allowing authorities to freeze his bank accounts with a court order.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/12/20/prosecutors-seek-75-year-prison-sentence-for-russian-singer-who-burnt-his-passport-a87409>