



The UIA Institute for the Rule of Law

STATEMENT

Paris, 24 December 2024

Russian Federation

Deep Concern over Ongoing Trial of Vadim Kobzev, Igor Sergunin and Alexei Liptser

UIA-IROL expresses once again¹ deep concern regarding the ongoing trial of lawyers Vadim Kobzev, Alexei Lipster and Igor Sergunin who defended Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition leader and vocal critic of the government who died in prison in last February. These legal professionals now face prosecution for performing their fundamental duty: ensuring a fair defense for their client.

The charges against the lawyers raise significant questions about the independence of the legal profession in Russia and the protection of human rights. Defending a client, regardless of their political views or actions, is a cornerstone of the rule of law and a universal principle enshrined in international legal standards, including the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.

The targeting of Navalny's defense team appears to be part of a broader pattern aimed at silencing dissent and eroding trust in the justice system. This situation not only undermines the integrity of legal institutions in Russia but also sets a dangerous precedent for lawyers worldwide, potentially deterring them from representing clients in politically sensitive cases.

UIA-IROL stands in solidarity with all lawyers facing persecution for their commitment to justice and urges the international legal community and global leaders to advocate for their protection. The impartiality and independence of the legal profession are essential pillars of democracy and human rights.

Their trial will continue on 24 December 2024 and UIA-IROL will follow it closely.

More about UIA-IROL

The Institute for the Rule of Law of the International Association of Lawyers (UIA-IROL) promotes the Rule of Law and supports and defends, in particular, (1) lawyers, judges and human rights defenders who are harassed, threatened and/or persecuted in the exercise of their professions, (2) the independence of the legal and judicial professions, and (3) the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, especially in defense of human rights.

For more information go to: www.uanet.org - uiacentre@uanet.org
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¹ See notably [here](#) and [here](#).