

30.03.2023

## Wartime Repressions Report. March 2023

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[Русская версия](#)

[Українська версія](#)

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More than a year ago, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Inside its borders, the Kremlin unleashed country-wide repressions. It detained almost 20 thousand people, charged more than 450 individuals in anti-war cases, and introduced new laws contradicting the Constitution and common sense.

Read more about these statistics in our monthly summary.

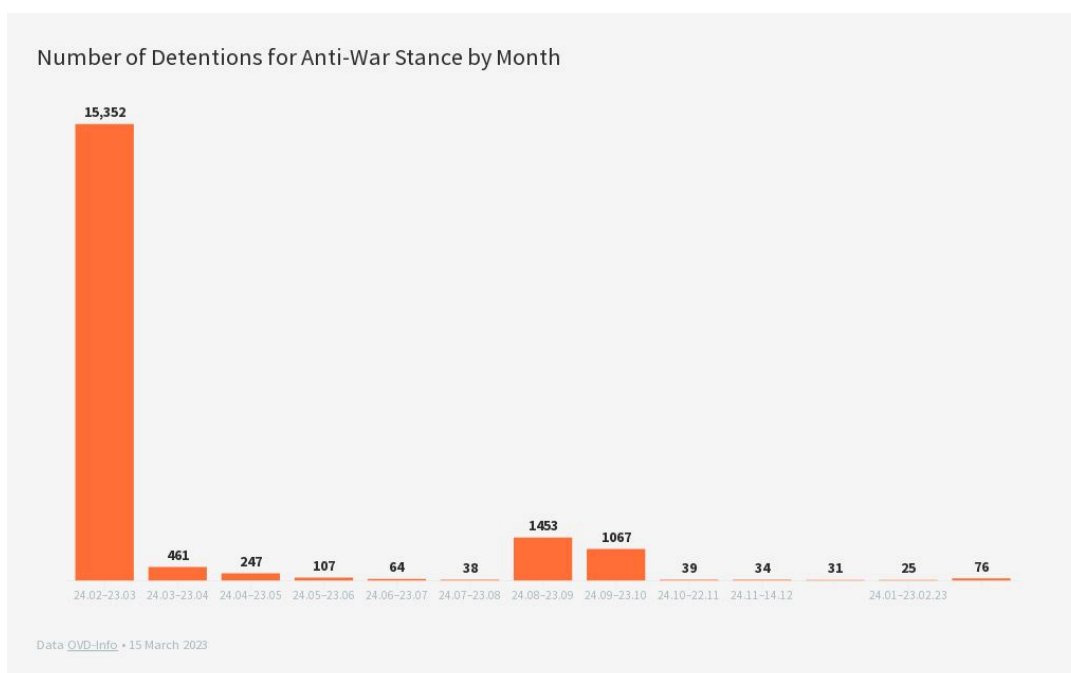
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## RESTRICTION ON THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

# 19,644

detentions for anti-war stance between  
24 February 2022 and 22 March 2023

Since the publication of last month's [summary](#), we found several dozen cases of alternative forms of «pressure»—not accompanied by arrests. In this summary, we excluded them from statistics. Therefore, the increase in the total number of detentions for the entire period was less than the number of recorded arrests for March. Read more about our [methodology](#) here.




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## REPRESSION AT THE LEGISLATIVE LEVEL

This month, the State Duma passed a [law](#) extending the criminal code regarding the spread of «fake news» and discrediting of the Russian Army to include smearing

«volunteers" (i.e. Russian mercenaries) participating in the war in Ukraine. In the previous 13 months of the war, they passed 33 such laws.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Закон	Ссылк
1	О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон "Об образовании в Российск...	<a href="https://">https://</a>
2	О внесении изменений в Кодекс Российской Федерации об администрати...	<a href="https://">https://</a>
3	О внесении изменения в статью 205-6 Уголовного кодекса Российской Фе...	<a href="https://">https://</a>
4	On Amendments to Article 6.21 of the Code of the Russian Federation on Admi...	<a href="https://">https://</a>
5	On Amendments to Article 458 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian ...	<a href="https://">https://</a>
6	On Amendments to the Federal Law "On Communications" and Certain Legisla...	<a href="https://">https://</a>
7	On Amendments to the Federal Law "On Combating the Legalization (Launderi...	<a href="https://">https://</a>
68 records		

 [Download CSV](#) [View larger version](#)

[Открыть таблицу / Open table](#)

## CRIMINAL CASES

# 487

defendants in criminal lawsuits against antiwar activity since  
24 February 2022

37 new defendants in «anti-war cases» were reported this month. Eighteen-year-old activist **Maxim Lypkan** was the youngest accused under the «fake news» article. He faced psychological and physical pressure in jail.

A **preliminary investigation** into the paintings of Elena Osipova, a 77-year-old artist from St. Petersburg, was launched, and a criminal case against Vasily Bolshakov for an **anecdote** in the Ryazan region was initiated.

There was also an **«incitement to treason»** case. It was based on «the desire to prevent Russia from achieving its goals in the war with Ukraine.» In Khabarovsk, an alleged activist

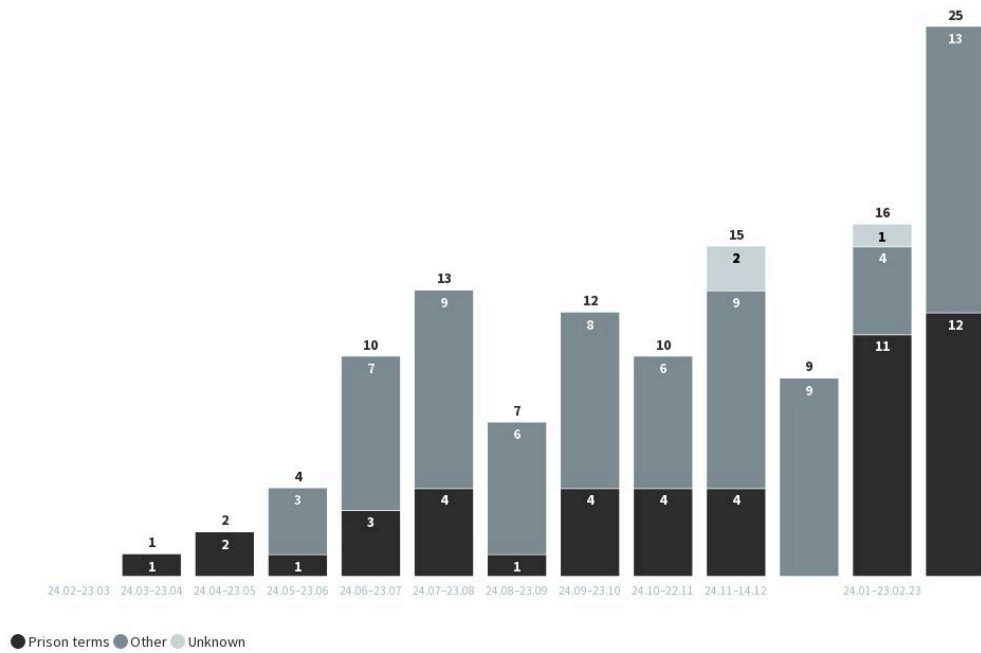
from the «I/We are Furgal» movement was accused of **treason** for financing the Ukrainian Army. In Sevastopol, a 62-year-old woman was a **suspect** of vandalism for painting Ukrainian flags on benches.

This month, the length of sentences for defendants in «anti-war cases» continued to surge. A **married couple** from the Tver Region (Alexander Martynov and Lyudmila Razumova) was sentenced to 6.5 and 7 years in prison, **Andrei Balin**, a politician, was given 7 years in prison, and **Dmitry Ivanov**, the founder of the Protest Moscow State University Telegram channel, was sentenced to 8.5 years. All of them were charged with knowingly spreading «fake news» about the Russian Army. The couple from Tver was also accused of vandalism because of anti-war graffiti. Kirill Butylin, a resident of the Moscow region, was **sentenced** to 13 years in a strict regime penal colony for attempting to set fire to a military enlistment office.

Security forces continued to use violence, threats and other pressure against the persecuted.

Security forces **threatened** to beat, rape, or send 16-year-old Egor Balazeikin, suspected of burning two enlistment offices, to a psychiatric hospital. Seventy-one-year-old Vladimir Atamanchuk, accused of repeatedly discrediting the Russian Army, **said** his investigator threatened to lock him in a basement if he refused to sign documents necessary for his investigation (allegedly, an agreement to fraudulent evidence). Politician Vladimir Kara-Murza, whose **trial** has already begun, **lost feeling** in his limbs due to inadequate conditions and lack of medical care in his cell at the Vodnik Pre-Trial Detention Center in Moscow. He could not even attend his trial. Ilya Baburin, accused of organizing the failed burning of an enlistment office in Novosibirsk, has been **bullied** in jail and threatened with a life sentence.

The number of sentences for defendants in the anti-war case by month



Data [QVD-Info](#) • 23 March 2023  
 To the real terms we refer: deprivation of liberty in a colony-settlement; imprisonment in a colony of general regime (including in absentia); imprisonment in a strict regime colony; forced labor; forced treatment. This also includes sentencing to an actual imprisonment, which we were told about without details about the colony. Other types of punishment include: a fine; restriction of freedom; conditional imprisonment; correctional labor, including probation; compulsory work.

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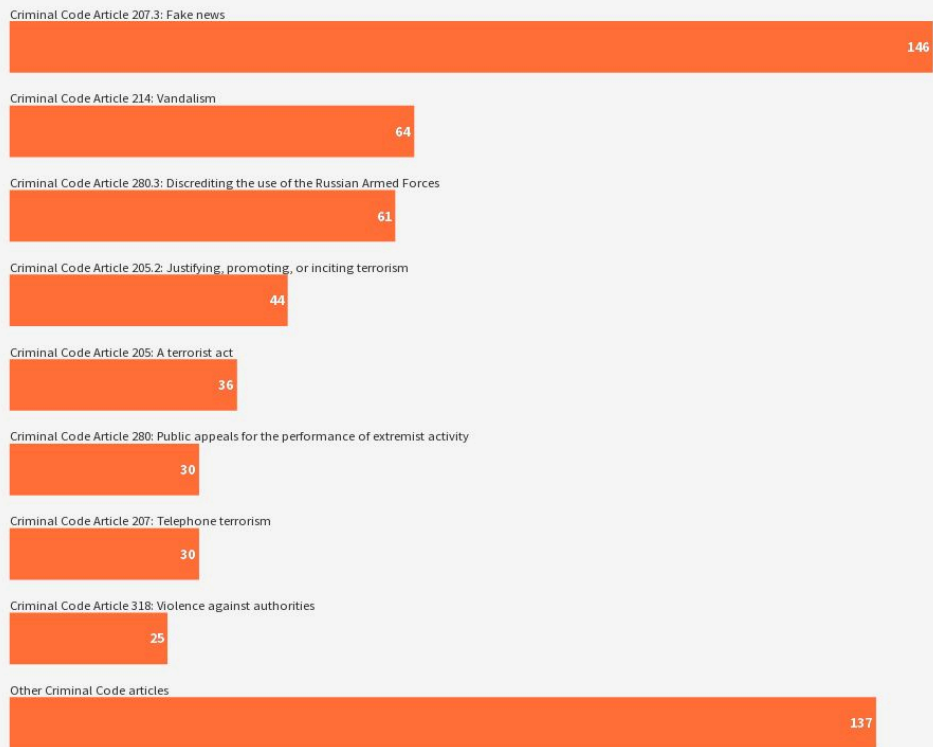
124 defendants in the “anti-war case” have already been convicted



Data [QVD-Info](#) • 23 March 2023

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## The number of defendants in the “anti-war case” prosecuted under each of the articles



Data: OVD-Info • 22 March 2023  
Defendants being prosecuted under several articles are included in each of the corresponding columns

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OVD-Info lawyers helped 54 defendants in 44 anti-war criminal cases and aided "the suspected" in two searches and four interrogations.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE CASES

# 6,296

cases under Article 20.3.3 (“Discreditation”)

\*According to «Mediazona»

Under the article for discrediting the Russian Army, Mikhail Abdalkin, a Samara deputy from the Communist Party, was **fined** 150 thousand rubles because he listened to Vladimir Putin's address to the Federal Assembly wearing noodles over his ears. In Russian, «don't hang noodles on my ears» is an idiom meaning «don't lie to me».





Source: Mediazona • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

OVD-Info civil rights defenders worked on 119 administrative cases this month (112 of them were anti-war cases), visited police departments 28 times (19 of those were anti-war cases) and helped 45 detainees in jail. Also, an OVD-Info lawyer **went** to «Open Space» (a civil rights coworking project) in Moscow. There, the police disrupted artist Sasha Skochilenko's book presentation. Police accused her of knowingly spreading «fake news» about the Russian Army (Item «D», Part 2 of Article 207.3 of the Criminal Code).

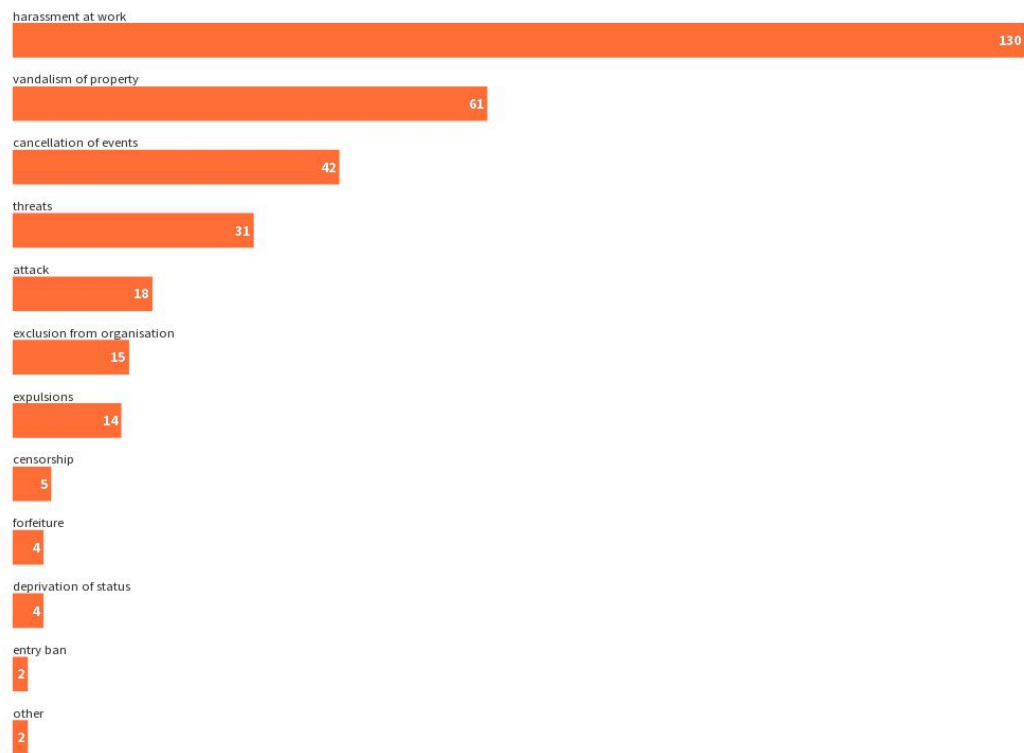
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## EXTRA-JUDICIAL PRESSURE

# 328

cases of extra-judicial pressure since 24 February 2022

## Extra-judicial pressure for anti-war stance



Data [QVD-Info](#) • 23 March 2023

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This month, child services pressured civilians due to their anti-war positions. In the Tula region (193 km south of Moscow), 13-year-old **Masha Moskaleva** has been kept in an orphanage for more than three weeks. Her father is under house arrest because of a criminal case alleging he discredited the Russian Army. Masha is prohibited from communicating with her father, the outside world and moving home.

In Ulan-Ude (a city in Eastern Siberia), pensioner and Buryat activist Natalia Filonova's 15-year-old adopted son was **sent** to an orphanage. She has been in jail since November.

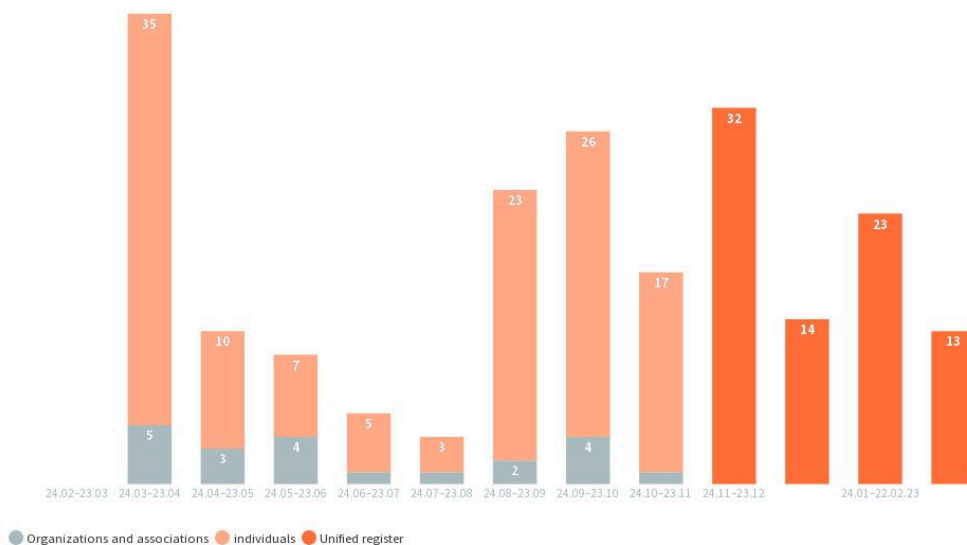
**«FOREIGN AGENTS» AND  
«UNDESIRABLE ORGANIZATIONS»**



## «foreign agents» added to the register by the Ministry of Justice between 24.02.23 and 23.03.23

Over the past month, the World Wildlife Fund, the Free Buryatia Foundation, journalist Daniil Gubarev, economist Sergey Guriev, ex-head of Yandex.News Lev Gershenzon, politician Gennady Gudkov, blogger and activist Veronika Vodwood, lawyer Pavel Chikov, blogger Ilya Varlamov, Svetlana Lada-Rus (Peunova), political scientist Ruslan Aisin, former Rain journalist Bogdan Bakaleyko, and the association Guys Plus were added to the register of "foreign agents."

223 individuals, organizations and associations were recognized as "foreign agents" in 13 months



Data: Inoteka • 23 February 2023

## New foreign agents and undesirable organizations this month



Данные: [Интотека](#) • На 23 марта 2023

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The figure consists of three vertical panels. The first panel on the left features a circular portrait of a man with a beard and sunglasses, with the text: "Alexey Seregin, a journalist from Yoshkar-Ola, spoke about the threats due to the publication of a photograph of flowers in memory of the victims of a destroyed apartment building in Dnipro. According to the journalist, he received a call from an stranger who reported the dissatisfaction of some "high-ranking officials" with one of his publications on social networks and said that a decision had been made to send him to jail for a period of 10 to 20 years." The middle panel features a circular portrait of a man with short dark hair, with the text: "In Crimea, a dentist named Elfan Beytullayev was forced to apologize on camera because of some Instagram stories in support of Ukraine." The third panel on the right features a circular portrait of a man with short light hair, with no text.

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This month, four organizations were deemed "undesirable" including Transparency International, the Institute for Statecraft (UK), Solidarus (Germany) and the Free Nations of Post-Russia Forum. Twenty-seven organizations have been named "undesirable" since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

## BLOCKING AND CENSORSHIP

# 444

resources blocked by the "Roskomnadzor"  
between 24.02.23 and 22.03.23

\*According to «Roskosvoboda»

Wikipedia was **fined** 2 million rubles for refusing to remove information about the war in Ukraine. This is the online encyclopedia's third fine.

Roskomnadzor even **blocked** a recipe for cooking lentils because of an anti-war appeal to Russians on the site. Project **Go through the Forest**'s website, OpenSanctions' **international database**, the Ukrainian International Legion's and the Congress of People's Deputies' **websites** were also blocked.

## **PRESSURE ON CIVIL SOCIETY**

This month, authorities escalated their harassment of «Memorial». The homes of volunteers and **employees** from the Perm branch were **raided**. A **criminal case** against co-chairman of Memorial Human Rights Center Oleg Orlov was launched for discrediting the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

The authorities also demanded the **liquidation** of the Information and Analytical Center «Owl» («Sova»). A **police report** was filed against Roskosvoboda due to lack of foreign agency labelling. We cannot confirm that this is anti-war pressure, however, after the outbreak of the war, repression against civil society intensified, so we included these cases in our summary.

Security forces in Moscow also carried out brutal raids. They **disrupted** artist Sasha Skochilenko's comic presentation. She

is accused in an anti-war «fake news» case. Police also conducted a «raid on bars» because they were allegedly financing the Ukrainian Army. In both cases, the police used violence. At «Open Space» (a civil rights coworking project) where Skochilenko's presentation was held, the police forced people face down onto the floor and beat Konstantin Novikov for refusing to show his passport. At bars, they made customers sing «patriotic» songs.

## **LINKS TO OTHER OVD-INFO DATA AND REPORTS**

- Summary of anti-war repressions. [One year of war](#)
- Summary of anti-war repressions. [January 2023](#)
- Repressions in Russia in 2022. [An OVD-Info overview](#)
- Summary of anti-war repressions. [October 2022](#)
- Summary of anti-war repressions. [September 2022](#)
- Summary of anti-war repressions. [August 2022](#)
- Summary of anti-war repressions. [July 2022](#)
- Summary of anti-war repressions. [June 2022](#)
- Report in Russian «[No war. How the Russian authorities are fighting anti-war protests.](#)»
- Report in Ukrainian «[No war. How the Russian authorities are fighting anti-war protests.](#)»
- Guide «[The anti-war case.](#)»
- The input of information in reply to the call for submissions: [Challenges to freedom of opinion and expression in times of conflicts and disturbances.](#)
- [The Report on Civil Rights and Freedoms of Children](#)
- Report «[Blocking Internet resources as a tool of political censorship.](#)»
- Project on the law on «foreign agents» — «[Inoteka](#)».
- Report «[How the authorities use cameras and facial recognition against protesters.](#)»
- [Reports](#) of OVD-Info and other organizations on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its international obligations in the field of human rights.
- [Information on the human rights situation in Russia](#) for the OSCE Moscow Mechanism.

## Ещё почитать

15.05.2025 Другое

Число случаев транснациональных репрессий в отношении россиян выросло в 8 раз с 2022 года

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**«Хочу мира». Волгоградского юриста, выступавшего против войны, отправили в колонию на шесть лет из-за одного поста**

История Руслана Нурушева, который с 2014 года протестует против агрессии в отношении Украины



### **Что такое «оправдание терроризма» и как за него преследуют?**

В рейтинге уголовных статей, по которым россиян преследуют за высказывания, первую строчку уже второй год статья о публичных призывах, оправдании или пропаганде терроризма...



### **Требуем запретить «карусельные» аресты**

В октябре 2025 года суд в Петербурге отправил под административный арест участников группы «Стоптайм»:

вокалистку Диану Логинову (Наоко), барабанщика Владислава Леонтьева и гитариста...

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### **Задержания, суды и давление за антивоенные высказывания и критику войны в Украине**

4473 новостей и текстов по теме