

Invitation to the virtual  
panel discussion:

# RUSSIA: "CRIMES AGAINST HISTORY"

June 10, 4:00 pm  
(Paris time)



**fidh**

## Virtual panel discussion launching the FIDH report "Crimes against history in Russia"

> registration link:  
<http://bit.ly/historycrimes>

State historical memory policy is often indicative of the extent to which the state respects human rights. In an attempt to legitimize the regime and justify repressive policies, some states falsify history, impose censorship and crack down on alternative viewpoints of the past. Arbitrary arrests, fines and imprisonment, harassment and smear campaigns against historians, journalists, NGOs and other "history producers" daring to contradict the official narrative, when committed systematically, might amount to what one historian calls "crimes against history".

As the new FIDH report demonstrates, this term is particularly relevant to today's Russia. In 2020, the official historical narrative, which centres on the victory in the Second World War, has been enshrined in the Constitution, where Russia is presented as the "successor to the Soviet Union" and the protector of "historical truth". Recent memory laws restrict freedom of expression, including the prohibition of criticism of the Soviet Union's actions during the Second World War, historians like Yuri Dmitriev are prosecuted, NGOs face "Foreign Agent" laws. The monopoly on historical memory has become one of the pillars of the modern Russia, and anyone who dares to argue with the official narrative is persecuted by the regime.



Virtual panel discussion  
(co-organised by FIDH and Mémorial-France):

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## Moderation:

**Isabelle Mandraud,**  
Le Monde

## Panellists:

**Grigory Vaypan**

Lead author of the report, Ph.D., Russian human rights lawyer and advocate for victims of Soviet-era repressions.

**Nanci Adler**

Historian, Director of Genocide Studies, NIOD Institute, Professor of Memory, History and Transitional Justice at the University of Amsterdam's (UvA) Faculty of Humanities.

**Nikolai Kaposov**

Historian, Visiting Professor at Emory University, author and editor of "De l'imagination historique" and "A Strict-Security Memory: History and Politics in Russia".

**Elena Zhemkova**

Co-founder and Executive Director of Memorial Historical, Educational and Human Rights Society.

**Nicolas Werth**

President of the association Mémorial-France (the French branch of Memorial International), historian of the history of the Soviet Union.

**Antoon De Baets**

Professor of History, Ethics and Human Rights at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Published the book "Crimes Against History".

**registration: [bit.ly/historycrimes](https://bit.ly/historycrimes) | download the executive summary.**

**Please register to receive a Zoom link. The number of places is limited.**

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