

Prosecutor of Orel Region  
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Dear Prosecutor,

I am writing to express my grave concern about the criminal conviction of Danish national and Jehovah's Witness Dennis Christensen.

On 6 February, Zheleznodorzhnyi District Court in Orel found Dennis Christensen guilty of "organizing activities of an extremist organization" (Article 282.2 (1) of the Russian Criminal Code) and sentenced him to six years' imprisonment.

Dennis Christensen has been arrested and prosecuted for practicing his religion as Jehovah's Witness. The right to freedom of religion is enshrined both in the Russian Constitution and in international human rights treaties to which Russia is a state party. By prosecuting Dennis Christensen, as well as other Jehovah's Witnesses, Russia violates its human rights obligations.

Dennis Christensen is a prisoner of conscience, deprived of his liberty solely for exercising his right to freedom of religion. I urge you to release him immediately and unconditionally. All charges against him must be dropped.

Yours sincerely,