

## **CHELYABINSK**

A list of searches at working places, in apartments occupied by Jehovah's Witnesses and in buildings Jehovah's Witnesses used for their religious worship, as well as an interrogation, that were conducted in the city of Chelyabinsk on May 12, 2010:

1. At 7:00 a.m., Inspector Sannikova and two police agents came to the apartment of V. Gruzkova, who is one of Jehovah's Witnesses. She was home with two children, four years old and seven years old. Before beginning the search, the agents looking for eyewitnesses, ringing each doorbell in the building and yelling: "Your neighbor will be searched!" When beginning the search, the officers took Gruzkova's telephone from her so that she could not call anyone. She begged the officers to at least let her call the kindergarten to let them know that she would not be able to bring her children that day. The agents confiscated all of Gruzkova's religious literature used for worship, along with notebooks, writing pads, and journals.
2. At 7:30 a.m., Inspector A. Kolov from the Investigative Committee under the Prosecutor's Office and four police officers from the Department for Counteracting Extremism came to the home of V. Kozhushko, who is one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Only his wife and son were home at the time, and his wife was afraid to open the door to strangers. However, the officers threatened to break into the apartment, so she let them in. They presented a court order (but refused to give her a copy) and began the search. When her husband learned of what was happening, he left his job and returned home. All their religious literature was confiscated. Kozhushko's wife and son were very frightened. The boy developed a fever as a result of the experience, according to the examination conducted by the family's doctor.
3. At 7:00 a.m., A. Startsev, who is one of Jehovah's Witnesses, was leaving home to go to work when he was stopped by a group of men. Without presenting an order, the men conducted a search and confiscated his religious literature used for study and worship, telephones, computer, flash cards, and other personal items. Two eyewitnesses were present; one, a woman, was under the influence of alcohol, and the other is currently under psychiatric care. The search was concluded at 1:00 p.m.
4. At 10:25 a.m., Investigator A. Frolov, from the Prosecutor's Office, was accompanied by an FSB official and three operatives; they arrived at the home of V. Rumyantsev, who is one of Jehovah's Witnesses. The officers presented a court order authorizing the search, which lasted nearly six hours. All the religious books as well as a notebook computer and a cellular phone were confiscated.
5. At 12:00 p.m., A. Kolov, Investigator for the Prosecutor's Office, with two police agents and two eyewitnesses, came to the home where Ye. Mukhachyov, who is one of Jehovah's Witnesses, lives with his 83-year-old mother. Only his elderly mother was home at the time. The woman was frightened by the persistent knocking and the yelling of the men who were dressed in civilian clothes. The woman did not open the door until the police officers called Mukhachyov. After he arrived, they entered the house and conducted a search. They confiscated all of her religious literature used for worship, and Kolov issued Mukhachyov a subpoena to report to the authorities.
6. At 7:00 a.m., a group of police agents came to the apartment of S. Karpushenko, who is one of Jehovah's Witnesses. They presented him with a court order authorizing a search of the apartment, but they refused to give him a copy. They did not allow him to call his attorney. Nearly all his religious books used for worship were confiscated along with his computer, writing pads, and phone books. The search lasted nine hours.
7. At 4:00 p.m., V. Karpushenko was brought to the "Kirovets" movie theater, a facility several congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses rent for conducting their religious meetings. A search of the theater was conducted on the basis of an order by the investigator from the prosecutor's

office. They refused to give Karpushenko a copy of the order. The officers found and confiscated a religious songbook, a religious magazine and several tracts used for worship.

8. At 6:00 p.m., without V. Karpushenko's knowledge, a search was conducted at his workplace (a watch repair shop at the "Gostiniy Dvor" mall).
9. At 6:00 p.m. S. Karpushenko was brought to the Traktorzavodskiy District Prosecutor's Office. There an investigator, officials from the FSB Directorate, and officials of the Department for Counteracting Extremism interrogated him for 3 hours and 40 minutes.
10. At 7:30 a.m. law-enforcement officials accompanied by the special police unit (OMON) arrived at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses ul. Serova 19. Upon seeing that only two elderly women were in the building at the time, the special police unit left. However, the police officers began searching the place of worship without the representatives of the Local Religious Organization present. The officers took the cellular phones from the frightened women, who were prohibited from informing anyone of the search. The officers searched the premises thoroughly—even inspecting behind the radiators and the toilet, but they found nothing. However, they decided to confiscate the video equipment used by the deaf congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses for conducting religious services. This is the same group of deaf individuals who won the case at the European Court of Human Rights regarding the disruption of their meeting for worship on April 16, 2000, in the case *Kuznetsov and others v. Russia*.
11. At 3:00 p.m., Investigator R. Sakayev and two police agents came to a building at ul. Solnechnaya 6, where local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses rent for conducting religious meetings. The investigator presented an order to the two women who were in the building at the time to conduct a search (they refused to provide a copy of the order). The search was conducted in the absence of the building owner and representatives of the lessee. Several religious brochures and DVDs used for worship were confiscated.
12. At 6:00 p.m., an investigator demanded to search the office at ul. Solnechnaya 6. The investigator was asked to present an order for the search, which he wrote up on the spot (but refused to issue a copy). The office search lasted six hours. Several religious publications used for worship were confiscated.

Although the law provides a citizen the right to appeal a court order to conduct a search (which is directly stated in the text of the orders), all the investigators refused to give copies of the orders to those whose residences, places of work, or places of worship were searched.