

# Russia Appropriately Jailed Members of Blasphemous Feminist Punk Rock Band

by Marie Julianna Bowe



Four women of the punk rock band during their blasphemous performance in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, Moscow, Russia, 2/21/2014

After dominating news headlines for months throughout 2012, three Russian women of a notorious, feminist, homosexual-supporting, punk rock band finally found their deserved homes behind bars. On 2/21/12 five women from this punk rock group known by the filthy name of P\*\*\*\* Riot<sup>1</sup> entered Moscow's largest cathedral, the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, and put on a blasphemous performance in front of the main altar. Wearing their rock group's customary costumes (brightly colored, skimpy dresses with matching balaclavas and tights), they wildly danced, kicked, and punched the air, yelling out the blasphemous lyrics to their

song in which they called on the Virgin Mary to become a feminist, ridiculed Russians for their obedience to the Russian Orthodox Church, degraded Russian women for being subservient to their husbands, and insulted the Russian Orthodox Church for being supportive of the newly re-elected President Vladimir Putin. They named their putrid song "A Punk Prayer: Mother of God, Drive Putin Away." These women were immediately grabbed and then dragged outside by the cathedral guards.

A few days later, on 2/26, a criminal investigation was opened against the five participating women. On 3/3/12 two of the women, Maria Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, were arrested; on 3/16, a third, Yekaterina Samutsevich, was also arrested; but the other two women involved in the blasphemous performance had already fled from Russia in fear.

On 7/30/12 the trial began and the three women in custody were charged with "premeditated hooliganism performed by an organized group of people motivated by religious hatred or hostility."<sup>2</sup> During the trial some of the church parishioners testified that they were "profoundly offended" by the women's blasphemous actions:

"One witness called them 'devil's pranks,' while others [were]...insulted by the performers' inappropriate attire... The candle-keeper of the cathedral said that 'they basically spat in my face, in my soul, in my Lord's soul' and that she cries when she remembers seeing the group in the cathedral. ...[One man] stressed that...[it] was extremely painful, like 'hell being as real as the Moscow metro,' and that P. Riot had 'declared war on God, Christianity, and the government.'"<sup>3</sup>

On 3/21/12 the Patriarch of the schismatic and heretical Russian Orthodox Church, Kirill I, spoke out in a public condemnation of the rock group:

*Wikipedia*, P. Riot: "Speaking at a liturgy in Moscow's Deposition of the Robe Church on March 21, the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Kirill I, condemned P. Riot's actions as 'blasphemous,' saying that the 'Devil has laughed at all of us... We have no future if we allow mockery in front of great shrines and if some see

<sup>1</sup> The name of this Russian rock band has a filthy connotation. Hence throughout this article their name will be written as "P. Riot."

<sup>2</sup> *Wikipedia*, "P. Riot," Trial, conviction and sentencing.

<sup>3</sup> *Political Insults: How Offenses Escalate Conflict*, by Karina V. Korostelina. Publisher: Oxford University Press, 2014. C. 2, p. 45.

such mockery as a sort of bravery, an expression of political protest, an acceptable action or a harmless joke.’ ”

On 8/2/12 President Vladimir Putin made the following statement to the Press:

“...There was ‘nothing good’ in P. Riot’s church performance... He stressed, ‘I wouldn’t really like to comment, but I think if the girls were, let’s say, in Israel, and insulted something in Israel...it wouldn’t be so easy for them to leave. If they desecrated some Muslim holy site, we wouldn’t even have had time to detain them. Nonetheless, I don’t think they should be judged too severely for this. But the final decision rests with the courts—I hope the court will deliver a correct, well-founded ruling.’ ”<sup>4</sup>

On 8/17/12, after their many court appearances, the three women were sentenced by the Moscow courts to two years in prison.<sup>5</sup> It was later decided that Yekaterina Samutsevich would be released on two years’ probation since she had been blocked from the performance by security guards. But the other two women, Alyokhina and Tolokonnikova, were sent to the IK-14 and IK-32 penal colonies of Mordovia, Russia, where they were justly treated with contempt by their fellow inmates.<sup>6</sup>

As was expected, the trial was a magnet for criticism from the highly immoral and hypocritical West. Human rights groups and many popular rock stars and performers called for the women’s release.<sup>7</sup> But the general position of the Russian citizens was quite the opposite. According to the polls taken, at least 86% of those questioned believed that the women “got what they deserved.”<sup>8</sup> At the Valdai Club dinner on 10/25/12, President Putin was challenged about the imprisonment of Alyokhina and Tolokonnikova and responded wittingly to the hypocritical criticism:

“P. Riot got what they deserved: Putin,” by Michael Scott, *Reuters.com*, Nov Ogaryovo, Russia, 10/25/2012: “At Thursday’s dinner Putin raised his voice, looked straight at the questioner and asked why Westerners who criticized Russia for sending two of the young women to labor camps far from Moscow had not come out in support of a jailed American who made an anti-Muslim hate film. ‘Do you want to support people with such views? If you do, then why do you not support the guy who is sitting in prison for the film about the Muslims?’ the president shot back. This was an apparent reference to ‘The Innocence of Muslims,’ a...video that triggered violent protests across the Islamic world when it was aired on the Internet. ... ‘We have red lines beyond which starts the destruction of the moral foundations of our society,’ Putin went on. ‘If people cross this line they should be made responsible in line with the law.’ ”

“Putin on P. Riot,” by Anthony Bond, *Dailymail.co.uk*, 10/26/12: “Russia’s President Vladimir Putin has rejected criticism of the imprisonment of the female punk band P. Riot by claiming ‘they would be at home doing housework if they had not broken the law.’ ”

Criticism from the West continued but did not sway President Putin. Instead, he kept the blasphemous and immoral women in prison and passed a law banning public disrespect in churches, which punishes offenders with jail time and fines. And on 6/30/2013 he passed a law banning homosexual propaganda, which punishes offenders with jail time and fines:<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 44.

<sup>5</sup> “P. Riot sentenced to two years in jail,” by *RT News*, 8/17/2012.

<sup>6</sup> *Wikipedia*, “P. Riot,” Imprisonment.

<sup>7</sup> *Amnesty International*, “Adele, U2, Madonna, Yoko Ono, Radiohead, Patti Smith, Bruce Springsteen, Ke\$ha, Sir Paul McCartney and Sting unite with more than 100 Musicians to call for release of P. Riot,” 7/22/2013.

<sup>8</sup> *Political Insults: How Offenses Escalate Conflict*, by Karina V. Korostelina. Publisher: Oxford University Press, 2014. C. 2, p. 31. See also *Wikipedia* “P. Riot,” Public opinion in Russia.

<sup>9</sup> See also *The Telegraph*, “Vladimir Putin signs anti-gay propaganda bill,” 6/30/2013.

*Al Jazeera*, “Russia legislators pass ‘gay propaganda’ ban,” 6/2013: “Russia’s parliament has passed two bills that impose jail terms for people promoting homosexual ‘propaganda’ to minors and those who offend religious believers. Ahead of Tuesday’s vote, gay activists staged a kissing protest outside parliament but were outnumbered by several hundred supporters of the bill, some carrying religious icons. Some threw rotten eggs at the gay protesters. After scuffles in which one man was knocked to the ground and kicked by the anti-gay activists, police began detaining the gay activists and bundling them into waiting buses. ...

“The bill against ‘homosexual propaganda’ to minors sailed through the State Duma lower house of parliament in a 436-to-0 vote with one abstention. ...

“According to another bill, passed in a 308-to-2 vote, ‘public actions expressing clear disrespect for society and committed to the goal of offending religious feelings of the faithful’ would be punishable with jail terms of up to one year and fines of up to \$9,000. The same actions committed in places of worship would be punishable by up to three years in prison and a fine of up to \$15,000.”

A few days before Christmas 2013, the State Duma of Russia approved a general amnesty which included those who were in prison for reasons other than violence, as well as mothers of young children. Unfortunately, Alyokhina and Tolokonnikova were among those who qualified for release.<sup>10</sup>

As is the case with unrepentant criminals, instead of amending their lives these women went back to their vomit and still continue to propagate their rebellious feminism and immorality. Recently, in 2/2014 during the Winter Olympics held in Sochi, Russia, Alyokhina, Tolokonnikova, and three others planned a performance near the Sochi Seaport and were promptly beaten by Cossacks in uniform who were working as security guards for the Olympics. A month later Alyokhina and Tolokonnikova were “assaulted by a group of unknown men wearing the Ribbon of Saint George, who doused them with green-coloured chemicals.”<sup>11</sup>

*CTV News*, “P. Riot members attacked in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia,” 3/6/2014: “Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alekhina, who spent nearly two years in prison for their irreverent protest against President Vladimir Putin in Moscow’s main cathedral, were doused with green antiseptic Thursday by five men in a McDonalds restaurant in the Volga River city of Nizhny Novgorod.

“In a video Tolokonnikova posted Twitter, the men also shouted insults, urging the women to leave the city. ... Last month, Cossack militia attacked them with horsewhips in Sochi during the Winter Olympic Games when they tried to perform a song mocking Putin.”

As long as Vladimir Putin’s Russia<sup>12</sup> continues to take correct action against such blasphemous and immoral attacks, we can hope for more imprisonment and the just punishment of crimes and criminals such as we have seen with this “Riotous” group.

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<sup>10</sup> *Wikipedia*, “P. Riot,” Release from prison.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, Assault in Nizhny Novgorod.

<sup>12</sup> Although Russia is not Catholic, it is less evil and less immoral than the USA, apostate Europe, other Western democracies, and apostate Israel. (See RJMI refutation *Against Fatima.*)