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Jan 3, 2025 · 17 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1875134034403271000](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1875134034403271000)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an Estonian politician and propagandist, Aivo Peterson. He's best-known for travelling to Donbas and Mariupol to produce pro-Kremlin propaganda, and for trying to create a pro-Russia separatist movement in Estonia.

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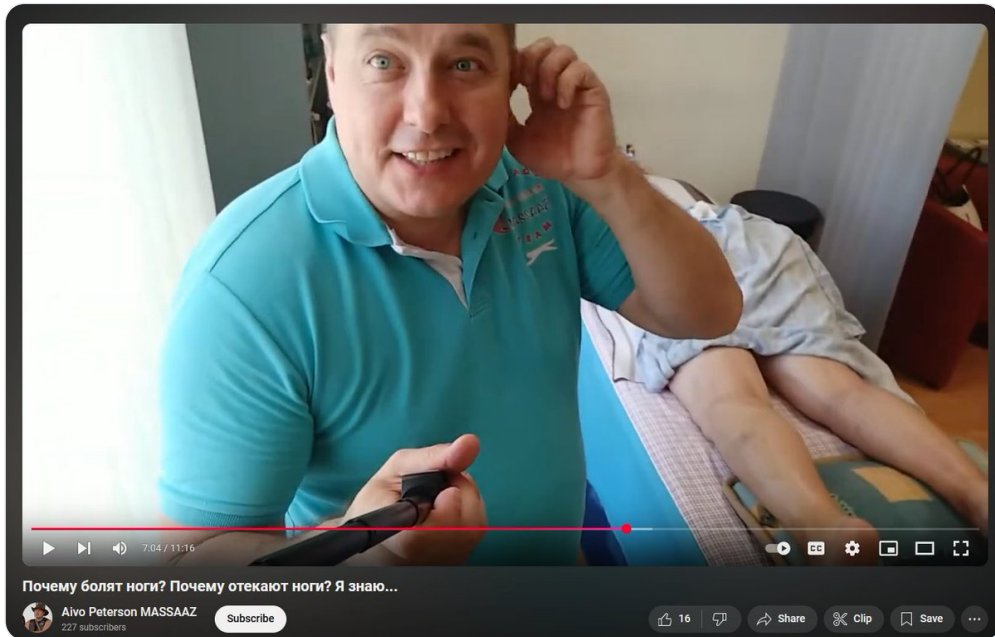


Peterson is what I call a “decoy vatnik” - someone who's so overtly pro-Kremlin that their activities draw a lot of attention (think Johan Bäckman in Finland), and the Putin bootlickers who work through business and politics can operate in peace.

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Aivo hails from Ida-Viru, a region populated mostly by Russians. His father was Russian — his birthname was Krylov, but he later took his mother’s surname Peterson. Before becoming a full-time Kremlin propagandist, he worked as a border guard, masseur & real estate agent.



Peterson was dismissed from his job as a border guard due to health reasons in 2004 & he had already joined politics in 2002.

Aivo had no real success in politics for around 20 years, but his popularity rose quickly after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.



Valimised

EESTI KEELES IN ENGLISH SISUKAART

asud siin: Valimiste arhiiv > 1992-2019 valimistel osalenud kandidaadi otsing

1992-2019 valimistel osalenud kandidaadi otsing

### Toimunud valimiste kandidaatide otsing

Selle otsinguvormiga on leitav informatsiooni kõikide 1992-2019 aastal Riigikogu (RK), kohaliku omavalitsuse volikogu (KOV) ja Euroopa Parlamendi (EP) valimistel osalenud kandidaatide kohta.

**Iga kandidaadi kohta näidatakse:**  
 Kandidaadi nimi; millisest valimisest osa võttis; (KOV volikogu valimiste korral) millises vallas/linnas kandideeris; ringkonna number; kandidaadi reg number; nimekirja nimi; saadud hääle arv ning valimistel vallituks osutumine +/-.  
 2009. a Euroopa Parlamendi valimistel kinniste nimekirjadega süsteemis erakonna nimekirjas kandideerinud kandidaatide kohta hääli ei ole võimalik näidata.

Liiga üldiste otsingutulemuste vältimiseks sisestage vähemalt **nelja tähemärgiline** otsisõna.

Otsi kandidaati  **OTSI**

KANDIDAAT	Valimine	Vald/ linn	Ringkonna number	Kandidaadi number	Nimekiri	Hääli	Valitud
AIVO PETERSON	KOV 2005	Narva linn	1	105	VL Linnakodanik	132	-
AIVO PETERSON	KOV 2009	Narva linn	1	102	Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond	351	-

A few months after Russia's attack, Aivo joined forces with a crypto-businessman, Oleg Ivanov, and together they launched a "peace movement" called Koos (Вместе, "Together"). The launch was accompanied with typical Kremlin bullshit, like calling the Bucha...

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## Welcome to the website of the Peace Movement KOOS/TOGETHER !



Welcome to the website of the Peace Movement KOOS/TOGETHER! Aivo Peterson. Photo: Private archive.

### DECLARATION N 1 OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT KOOS/TOGETHER


...massacre a "staged provocation", blaming the West and the US for starting a "proxy war" and "using Ukraine, the Baltics and Poland as vassal states" to wage war against Russia. All this was mostly promoted to Estonia's Russian-speaking population, and most Estonians...

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## State sees no reason to penalize Aivo Peterson over pro-Kremlin campaigning

NEWS  
ERR, ERR News  
07.03.2023 15:54



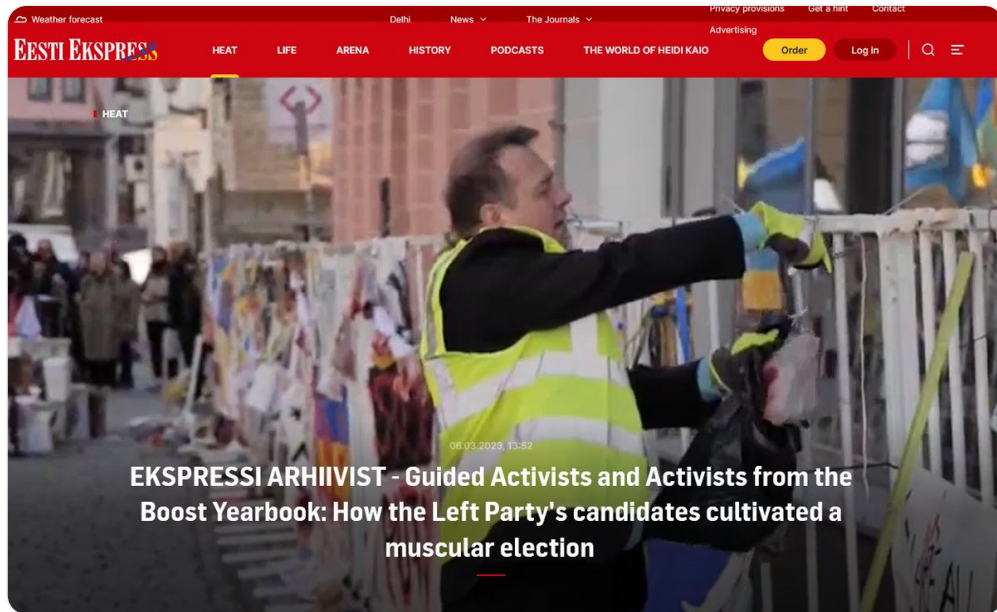
Pedestrian border checkpoint in Narva. Source: Sergei Stepanov

The actions of a candidate at the recent Riigikogu elections, who recently visited occupied eastern Ukraine and made video campaign clips echoing a pro-Kremlin line while on the ground there, do not constitute cause for any punishment, senior representatives of the Estonian state say.

Additionally, Peterson, who amassed nearly 4,000 votes, considerably more than many sitting government ministers, cannot be stripped of his citizenship, since he is an Estonian citizen by birth.

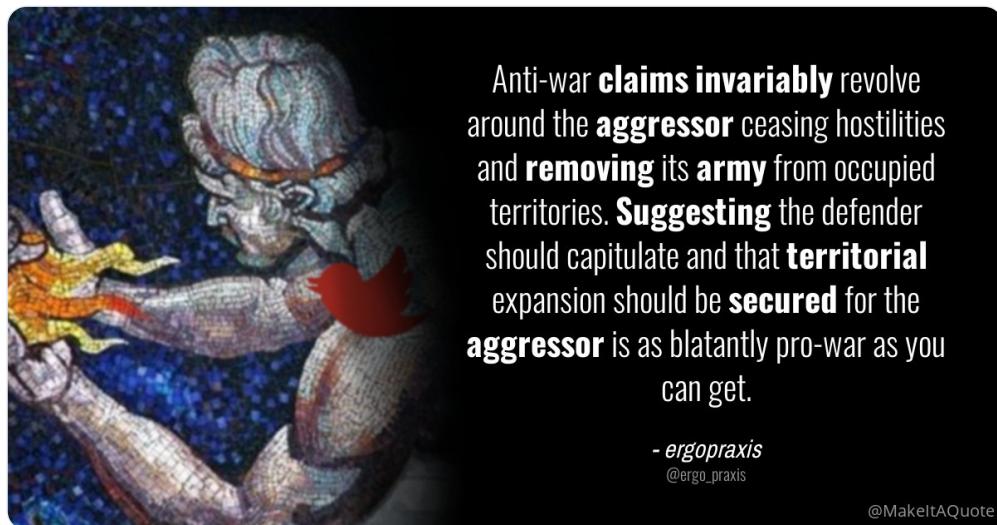
Aivo Peterson (born Krõlov) co-founded Koos/Vmeste with businessman Oleg Ivanov. The latter reportedly referred to the Bucha massacre of Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war by Russian military personnel, which came to light at the beginning of April 2022, as having been "staged".

...weren't even aware of this active campaigning, probably administrated by the more tech-savvy Mr. Ivanov. Peterson also organized several dramatic demonstrations, like taking down pro-Ukraine memorabilia that were brought as a protest to the Russian embassy in Tallinn.



It's worth noting that when people like Peterson talk about “peace”, they only call for stopping the military aid to Ukraine (and basically a capitulation), and neatly forget the aggressor and the fact that Putin has shown very little interest in any kind of peace talks.

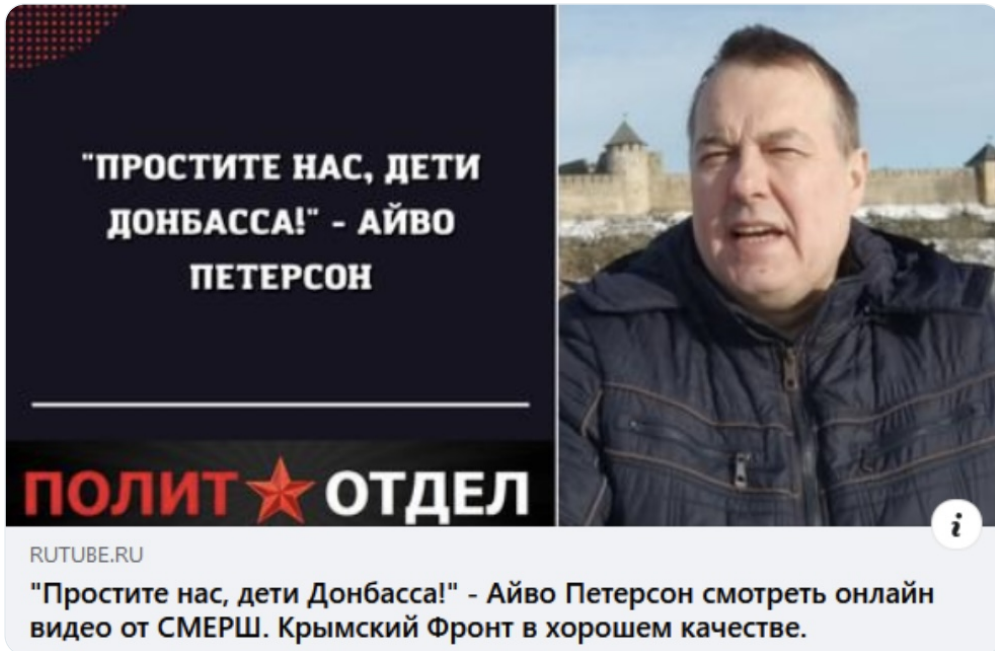
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In Feb 2023, Peterson also traveled to Donbas in Eastern Ukraine, also visiting Mariupol. According to the Estonian prosecutor, the trip was organized by the Russian intelligence agencies. He also appeared on Solovyov's propaganda show.

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As Koos failed to register their candidates before the deadline for the 2023 parliament elections, they joined forces with Vasakliit, a direct descendant party of the soviet-occupation communist party. The union earned a record high 2.4% votes, qualifying for state funding.

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EESTIMAA ÜHENDATUD VASAKPARTEI

Reg nr	Kandidaadi nimi	Hääli kokku	Ida-Viru maakond	Hääled välisriigist	Väljaspool ringkonda antud hääled	E-hääled*
1050	AIVO PETERSON	3 968	3 346	9	21	592
1052	OLGA TIMOFEJEVA	184	165	0	2	17
1051	SILVIA POSSAŠKOVA	163	141	0	0	22
1053	ALEKSANDR SPOSSOBIN	53	44	0	1	8
1054	MARINA KOZITSKAJA	29	26	0	0	3
<b>Nimekiri kokku 0,8930 kvooti</b>		<b>4 397</b>	<b>3 722</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>642</b>



## Left Party and the Right to receive state support

ESTONIA

06.03.2023 08:33



Money. Author/source: A. Debus / Pixabay

While the United Left Party of Estonia and the right, the Connecticut Republican Party, which has not exceeded the threshold in the parliamentary elections, will both receive a state budget of EUR 30,000 per year.

The left-wing party garnered 14,607 votes, or 2.4 percent, in the state election.

The right had 14,035 votes and 2.3 percent support.



Peterson was arrested in Mar 2023, on suspicion of creating a pro-Kremlin “civilian defense unit” in Estonia, allegedly recruiting people with gun permits and “anti-Estonian attitudes”. He was arrested before he had the chance to launch the organization.

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### Court sets bail for Aivo Peterson at €150,000

NEWS  
ERR  
07.10.2024 12:18



Aivo Peterson. Source: Ken Mürk/ERR

The Harju County Court on Monday set a bail of €150,000 for Aivo Peterson, who is accused of treason. If paid, Peterson could be released from custody, Postimees reports.

Peterson is accused of treason for “knowingly and systematically assisting Russia based on directives from the Russian Federation,” for which he could face a prison sentence ranging from 6 to 20 years or even life imprisonment.

12/16

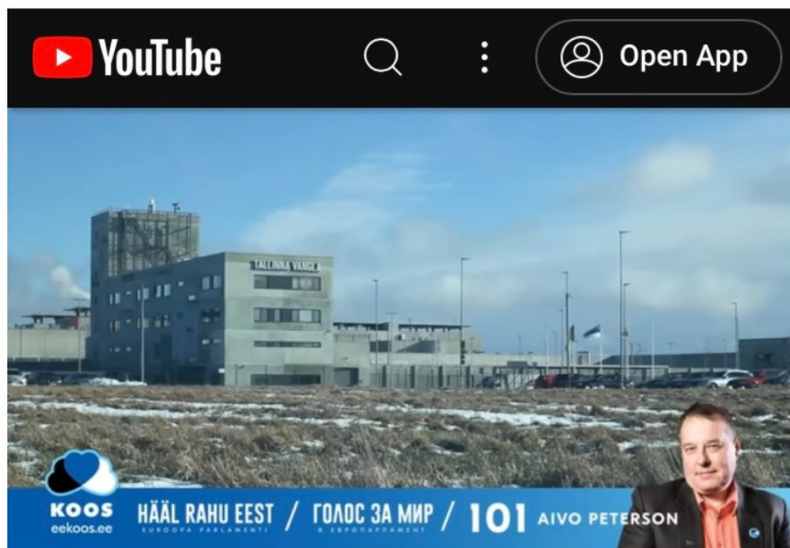
The trial of Aivo Peterson, accused of treason, began in Harju County Court in November of last year. If convicted of treason, Peterson could face a prison sentence ranging from six to 20 years or even life imprisonment.

According to the charges, Peterson, a leading member of the movement Koos/Vmeste, and Dmitri Rootsi, who is also on trial with him, knowingly and systematically assisted Russia from October 2022 to March 10, 2023, based on directives from the Russian Federation. They allegedly aided individuals acting on behalf of Russian authorities in activities aimed against the Republic of Estonia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, without resorting to violence.

Despite imprisonment, Peterson ran for the European Parliament in 2024 as the sole Koos party candidate. He released a campaign video from prison, urging voters to support his cause and demand his release. For the elections, he received a total of 11 507 votes.

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## Aivo Peterson received 11,507 votes: a disappointment for some, a relief for others



ALREADY A YEAR AND A HALF IN TALLINN PRISON. 'Please vote for Aivo Peterson, then you will help at least two children get their father back!' Aivo Peterson appeared as a martyr in a pre-election clip. *Source: YouTube, screenshot.*

Since his arrest, Aivo has changed some of his statements — for example, he stated that “Russia is the aggressor” and that he “only wants peace”.

The cynical among us could think that Peterson knows he’s done as a Russian asset and now fights for a shorter sentence.

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## Estonian KOOS party comments on statement by political prisoner Aivo Peterson

BALTIC FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER ON 25.12.2024

The KOOS party was surprised by an interview that the party founder Aivo Peterson allegedly gave to the Eesti Ekspress newspaper. In this interview, he unexpectedly called Russia an "aggressor" and the party and the people of Estonia bearers of Western values.

"Such statements have raised a number of questions and confusion among all party members and our voters. We will contact Ivo shortly and find out from him what exactly he said to the press and in what context it was presented to the public," the party said in a statement.

The statement also emphasizes that the official position of the KOOS party does not recognize Russia as either an aggressor country or a terrorist country.

"If Estonia considers someone's statements to be propaganda, then it must also acknowledge the existence of its own propaganda rhetoric and censorship," the statement said.

"As for the values of the KOOS Party, they are neither Western, nor Eastern, nor any other. Our values are universal values based on individual freedom and freedom of speech, as well as on friendly cooperation with all countries, especially with neighboring countries," the statement says.

I think we can safely say that Aivo's and other pro-Kremlin candidates' success in Estonian elections indicate that Estonia has a very strong "fifth column" that has no problem in supporting Russia's brutal war and whitewashing their war crimes.





**Pekka Kallioniemi** ✓  
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In today's #vatnik soup I'll talk about the "fifth column": a group of people who undermine and sabotage a nation or a group from within, usually in favor of a another nation or a group. Their activities often include sabotage, disinfo & propaganda, espionage, and terrorism.  
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10:25 AM · Jan 9, 2023



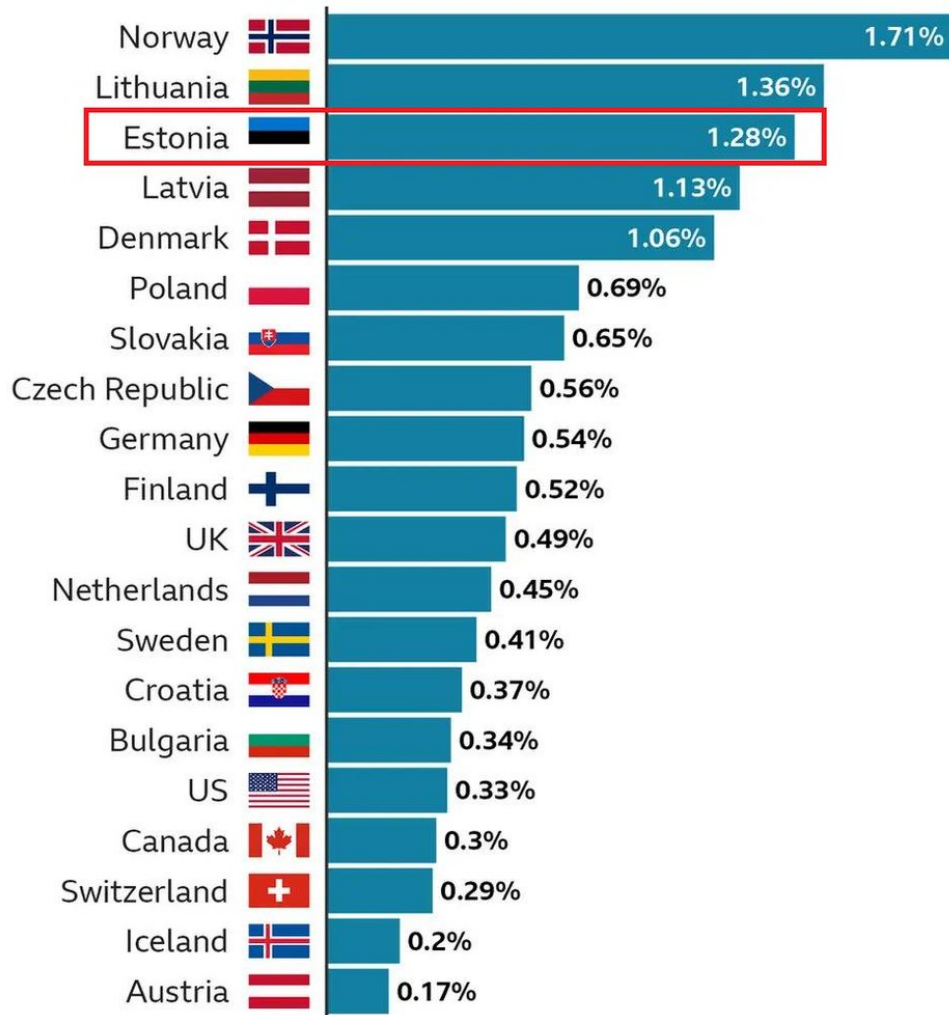
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This may come as a surprise to many, as Estonia as a country has been one of the biggest donors (% of total GDP) to Ukraine. But it also shows us how Russian propaganda can brainwash a Russian-speaking fifth column outside of Russia, too.

## European countries have sent significant amounts of aid to Ukraine

The 20 largest donors by the percentage of the country's GDP



Source: Kiel Institute for the World Economy

**B B C**

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