



Sonya Izdebskaya (police photo)

Sofia Izdebskaya

SOFIA (SONYA) ALEXANDROVNA IZDEBSKAYA (? -?) was the daughter of the engineer Aleksandr Stanislavovich Izdebsky, a participant of the Revolution of 1905–1907 in the city of Aleksandrovsk as a member of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party. Sonya became a physician, and took part in the revolutionary movement in St. Petersburg, where she organized a group of anarchists in the Vasileostrovsky District.

In March, 1914, she was arrested in her own apartment on Barochny Street, but was soon released. In 1915–1916 she belonged to the Northern Group of anarchists. After the arrest of her husband, the anarchist D. P. Nazimov (1879–1929), she effectively took over the direction of all underground work of the Group.

On July 2, 1916, in a forest near the Porokhovye railway station, she convened a meeting of representatives of all the Petrograd anarchist groups, at which, following her suggestion, an “Information Bureau” was set up, consisting of three or four people through which all common issues were resolved. She taught classes on anarchist theory to interested persons, distributed anarchist literature, drafted the texts of proclamations,

and prepared curricula for anarchist study groups.

On October 18, 1916, she convened an organizational meeting of Petrograd anarchists, following which she was arrested along with other members of her group. She was released in March, 1917, and became an activist of the Petrograd Federation of Anarcho-Communists. On November 26, 1917, she took part in the 2nd Conference of the Petrograd Federation of Anarchist Groups, and was elected to the editorial board of its daily newspaper *Burevestnik* and also to a commission for organizing an All-Russian anarchist conference.

In the early 1920s, she was active in underground anarchist groups in Petrograd. In the autumn of 1925, a number of anarchist groups coalesced into a federation. Within the federation, she directed propaganda circles. On July 7, 1926, she was arrested in Leningrad during the liquidation of these groups. On September 18, 1926, an OGPU collegium sentenced her to three years of exile in Siberia, which she served in the village of Kargasok, Narymsky okrug, Sibersky krai. In 1930–1932 she served a “minus” [excluded from living in major cities] in Voronezh. Her subsequent fate is unknown.

by Sergei Ovsiannikov (translated by Malcolm Archibald)