

14
Feb 2019

▲ Lvl. 1

No state
reply yet

Russian Federation

Alert created on: 08 Nov 2017

Russian Editor Arrested, Allegedly Injured in Custody; Newspaper Raided

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

📍 1 Journalist in detention

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

NO STATE REPLY YET

PARTNER: CPJ, AEJ, EFJ/IFJ, Index, RSF

The editor-in-chief and owner of the independent, Kaliningrad-based weekly Novye Kolyosa, Igor Rudnikov, was allegedly beaten while in custody of Russia's security service (FSB) and faces criminal prosecution. On the night of 1 November 2017, the FSB also raided the Novye Kolyosa office.

According to the Novye Kolyosa staff, Rudnikov was first detained at his house and brought to the newsroom in handcuffs with his hand swollen. Nearly a dozen officers in heavy armor and facemasks raided the newsroom and conducted a search that lasted for over five hours. Rudnikov was interrogated in a room separate from the rest of the staff. Rudnikov was then hospitalized with a concussion, a broken arm, and a broken rib, according to press reports and the paper staff.

At around 2 a.m. on 2 November, Rudnikov was taken in his underwear from his hospital bed to his home where security forces conducted further searches. The law enforcement also searched his mother's house. Officers then placed Rudnikov in a Kaliningrad FSB detention center.

On 3 November 2017, Rudnikov appeared at a local court to hear charges against him. The authorities charged Rudnikov with accepting a bribe from Viktor Ledenyov, head of the Kaliningrad branch of Russia's investigative committee. The judge denied the defense's request to place Rudnikov, who appeared with a cast on his hand, under house arrest to receive medical treatment, and ruled that the suspect should remain in custody until 1 January 2018 pending investigation, media reported.

Rudnikov's colleague told CPJ they believe the charges are in retaliation for Novye Kolyosa's series of reports about a luxury villa in Kaliningrad allegedly belonging to Ledenyov .

UPDATES

14 Feb 2019: Igor Rudnikov is due to appear in court on extortion charges in St. Petersburg on 14 February 2019.

➔ CPJ report: "Editor of Russia's Novye Kolyosa due in court after 15 months in custody"

01 Feb 2019: On 1 February 2019, the Kaliningrad Regional Court, at the behest of Roskomnadzor, closed the newspaper "Novye Kolyosa". The defense announced that it would appeal the decision, up to the European Court of Human Rights.

➔ Radio Free Europe report : "Суд закрыл калининградское независимое издание "Новые колеса""

05 Nov 2018: An order was issued on 26 September 2018 extending Igor Rudnikov's preventive detention by another six months.

27 Jul 2018: On 28 June 2018, the Moscow Basmany Court extended Igor Rudnikov's pre-trial detention until 1st September 2018.

18 Apr 2018: On 29 March 2018, a Moscow court extended Igor Rudnikov's pre-trial detention for another two months.

05 Mar 2018: On 2 December 2018, a month after his arrest, Igor Rudnikov was transferred to Moscow. He is currently held under a provisional detention order valid until 1 April 2018.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



➔ RSF report: "Hounded by authorities, Kaliningrad weekly publishes last issue"

➔ Report published on the Mapping Media Freedom platform: "Police storm offices, assault and arrest editor-in-chief "

➔ CPJ report : "Russian editor arrested, allegedly injured in custody; newspaper raided"

FOLLOW-UPS



OSCE 07 Nov 2018 | One year after arrest of Russian journalist Igor Rudnikov, OSCE Representative reiterates call for his release

➔ Statement by Harlem Désir

JOURNALISTS IN DETENTION



Currently in detention (1):

Igor Rudnikov