

Players Want Protection After Attack on Gogniyev

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The  **Moscow Times**

The Russian players' union, RSFT, on Monday asked the Russian Football Union to take sanctions against Chechen club Terek Grozny after a Krasnodar Football Club striker was badly beaten in the tunnel during a league game last weekend. ☒

"Yes, I did push the referee, and I was sent off," the 30-year-old player, Spartak Gogniyev, was quoted as saying by local media. "Well, I overreacted, it happens. But at no time did I say anything bad toward Terek fans or the club's officials." ☒

Photos of Gogniyev's bloody face were splashed across many newspapers on Monday.

The Chechen club denied wrongdoing. ☒

"Krasnodar captain Gogniyev was sent off in Friday's reserve game after arguing with the referee and headed for the tunnel. In there, he was apprehended by a group of men dressed in police uniforms. They grabbed him and dragged him aside, where they proceeded to beat him with batons," the RSFT said in a statement. ☒

"The violent attack took place in sight of Terek's two vice presidents, one of whom is the Chechen sports minister. Medical examination revealed that Gogniyev suffered broken ribs, a broken nose, severe bruising and a concussion."

In a statement, the RSFT urged the Russian Football Union "to take sanctions against the assailants and introduce reforms to change the outrageous attitudes toward players."✕

Former Montenegro striker Nikola Nikezic, who played for Krasnodar's city rivals Kuban last season, lodged a complaint with FIFA and UEFA earlier this year saying he had been beaten up and threatened with a gun as Kuban officials tried to terminate his contract. ✕

Kuban was fined \$70,570 by the Russian Football Union, while the club's sporting director and the assistant coach received lengthy bans for their role in the incident.

✕Kuban settled the dispute by paying Nikezic compensation of \$294,000 for the final year of his contract.

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37