

Police Question Samutsevich Over Fallen Cross

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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The  **Moscow Times**

Police questioned convicted Pussy Riot member Yekaterina Samutsevich over her possible involvement in the cutting down of an Orthodox cross on Monday night in southeast Moscow.

"Two officers from the [police's anti-extremism] "E" unit came and asked for explanations regarding the cross being cut down. Then they left," Samutsevich wrote on Twitter on Wednesday.

Samutsevich did not say what police specifically asked, and police have not officially confirmed the report, Trud reported Thursday.

Two unidentified people sawed down a cross on the site of where an Orthodox church was meant to be built in the Lyublino district.

Police are looking into the incident, which is currently being treated as an act of vandalism.

A criminal case has been opened on charges of vandalism, which carries a maximum sentence of up to three years in prison.

Three members of the punk band Pussy Riot — Yekaterina Samutsevich, Maria Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova — were given two-year sentences last August for the band's performance of an anti-Putin "punk prayer" at Christ the Savior Cathedral on Feb. 21.

Samutsevich was later released on appeal.

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