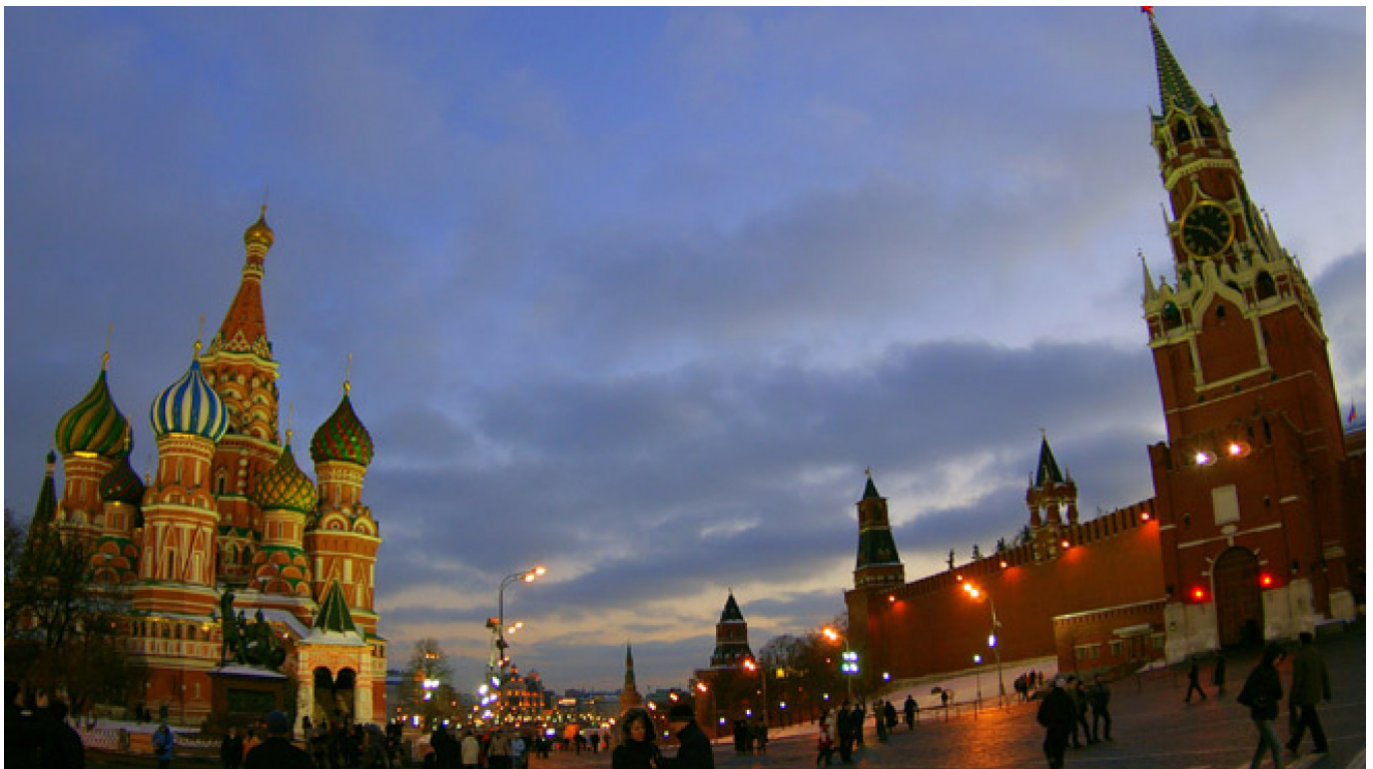


Man Detained for Joyriding Through Red Square in Loaded Tow Truck

February 25, 2015



Moscow police has neither released nor confirmed reports of the suspect's identity.

Some get their kicks by painting the town red, others by driving stolen tow trucks through Red Square.

A man was apprehended Wednesday after having allegedly hijacked a loaded tow truck and taken it for a 20-minute joyride around Red Square, one of the capital's most iconic landmarks, Russian media reported Wednesday.

The incident occurred after the suspect and the tow truck's driver got into a squabble due to the latter's efforts to tow the former's car, TASS reported.

Other media reports suggested that the suspect had been sitting in the backseat of the tow truck and unexpectedly attacked its driver, usurping the steering wheel.

Sensationalist television channel LifeNews identified the suspect as Pavel Klyuev, a 59-year-old resident of the Voronezh region. The channel also reported that the suspect and the tow

truck's driver were acquaintances.

Moscow police has neither released nor confirmed reports of the suspect's identity.

A spokesman for the Moscow police told TASS that the area was secured to ensure the safety of tourists and passersby, before the tow truck's hijacker was arrested and taken to a nearby police station. A law enforcement source told the Gazeta.ru news site that the incident could have been caused by the suspect's unstable mental state.

Red Square, which has been on UNESCO's World Heritage list since 1990, is generally closed to traffic.

Red Square being the locale of Moscow's annual Victory Day parade, state-of-the-art military vehicles are known to drive across it during the festivities every May 9. Loaded tow trucks, however, have not traditionally featured as part of the procession.

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