

Russian Police to Resume Publishing Rape and Murder News With World Cup Over

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Sergei Karpukhin / Reuters

Russian police have reportedly been released from a gag order on publishing crime reports days after the World Cup was brought to a close.

Reports surfaced on June 14, the eve of the football tournament, that an Interior Ministry directive had [ordered](#) its branches to self-censor their usual crime reports. Instead, the law enforcement websites were instructed to share exclusively positive stories, such as successful police operations.

The operational reports will [resume](#) on July 25, an anonymous Interior Ministry source told the FlashNord news website on Wednesday.

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“The ministry’s federal and regional websites were banned from publishing reports on murders, rapes, suspect searches, robberies and deadly road accidents from June 5 to July 25,” the source was quoted as saying.

Interior Ministry websites in 19 Russian regions published 100 times fewer negative stories between mid-June and mid-July, compared to the preceding month, the 7x7 news website [tallied](#) after the World Cup final.

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