

Teen Detained on Suspicion of Burning Down 18th-Century Russian Church

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Ilya Timin / TASS

A 15-year-old has been placed in custody on suspicion of setting fire to a historic 18th-century church under state protection.

Built entirely out of wood in Russia's northwestern republic of Karelia in 1774, the Dormition Church of Kondopoga [burned](#) to the ground last week.

Related article: [Fire Destroys Historic Wooden Church Built in 1774](#)

The regional branch of Russia's Investigative Committee [said](#) it had detained the teen and assigned a psychological evaluation.

“The teenager has been placed in the Karelian Interior Ministry's temporary detention [center] for juvenile delinquents for 30 days,” the state-run TASS news agency quoted branch

spokeswoman Olga Golubenko as saying Monday.

According to the Mash Telegram channel, the alleged arsonist [said](#) he had been motivated by “a wish to attain worldwide fame.”

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