

Russian Skier Found Guilty of Buying ‘Spy Gadget’ Goggles

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A Siberian skiing enthusiast has reportedly been found guilty of purchasing hi-tech goggles considered spy gadgets by Russia.

Russian law enforcement agencies estimate convictions for the “illicit traffic” of spy gadgets increased fivefold between 2011 and 2017. The Supreme Court [said](#) last month that the purchase of so-called spy gadgets cannot be prosecuted if the individual was “mistaken about their actual purpose.”

Alexei Zhavoronkov was said to have ordered a \$30 pair of ski goggles with a built-in camera from a Chinese online marketplace. Local media reported that Russian customs officials confiscated the gadget last fall because it contained unidentified “equipment banned in Russia.”

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A district court sentenced Zhavoronkov to pay a fine of 15,000 rubles (\$223), the Kemerovo region news website city-n.ru [reported](#) Sunday.

In denying his guilt, Zhavoronkov reportedly argued that he could not have violated the law because the equipment came without a memory card, meaning he “could not obtain any secret information.”

The case follows a high-profile arrest and subsequent release last year of a Russian farmer who had [ordered](#) GPS trackers from China for his stray cattle.

In another prosecution involving China’s AliExpress website, an American teacher [faces](#) 20 years in Russian prison for ordering a cleaning product containing a chemical banned in Russia.

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