

Russian State Media War Reporter Defends Nazi Tattoos

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GLEB ERVE / instagram

A Russian journalist covering Moscow's invasion of Ukraine for state media has said that he "doesn't regret" his time in a far-right group after being pictured with Nazi tattoos.

Gleb Erve currently covers the conflict — which the [Kremlin claims](#) was launched to "denazify Ukraine" — for the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

Ukrainian news outlet Kyivskaya Pravda [published](#) images showing fascist and nazist symbols tattooed on Erve's head and arm. They are the emblem of the Italian National Fascist Party [tattooed](#) on the back of his head and the Algiz, or Life rune, widely [used](#) in Nazi Germany, on [his hand](#).

Writing on the Telegram messaging app, Erve did not deny having the tattoos but [said](#) he left the far-right three years ago after feeling "[disappointed](#)" in the movement.

"Do I regret this story? No. Simply because it was an experience, a very unusual one," Erve

[said](#) in an interview with the state-run news outlet Sputnik.

He also claimed that his background helped him interview captives from Ukraine's Azov Battalion — a group with far-right roots that has since been incorporated into the Ukrainian military — and search for “nationalist” literature in Ukraine.

Before joining RIA Novosti, Erve worked at a Moscow tattoo salon alongside Andrei Dedov, an ally of Russian Nazi activist Maxim “Tesak” Martsinkevich, Novaya Gazeta Europe [later reported](#).

Martsinkevich has been charged twice with inciting ethnic or racial hatred, while unconfirmed reports have linked Dedov to several murder cases.

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