

Russia Says Former Bolshevik Party Leader Behind Pro-War Blogger's Murder

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Roman Popkov [Roman Popkov / Facebook](#)

Russian investigative authorities on Thursday [named](#) Roman Popkov, a journalist and former leader of the radical leftist National Bolshevik Party, as the organizer of a prominent pro-war blogger's assassination.

Vladlen Tatarsky, a vocal supporter of the invasion of Ukraine, was [killed](#) in a bomb blast after being gifted a golden figurine containing an explosive device at an April 2 event at a St. Petersburg cafe on April 2. Dozens of others were injured.

Shortly after the incident, Russian authorities arrested 26-year-old St. Petersburg native [Daria Trepova](#), who was filmed handing Tatarsky the statuette.

Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said Popkov, 44, "corresponded with Trepova on social networks and gave her instructions regarding the preparation of a terrorist act."

The Investigative Committee charged Popkov — who currently lives in Ukraine — with criminal charges of “orchestrating an execution of a terrorist act” in absentia.

His name and photo had [appeared](#) on Russia's federal wanted list earlier Thursday.

Related article: [FSB Names Ukrainian Suspect in Pro-War Blogger's Assassination](#)

Though Popkov has confirmed being acquainted with Trepova, the activist denied that he was involved with Tatarasky's murder or linked to the Ukrainian intelligence services, which Russia claims organized the attack.

“I gave no orders to Dasha and didn't introduce her to any Ukrainian agents,” Popkov [wrote](#) on the Telegram messaging app shortly after Trepova's arrest.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) in April [named](#) Ukrainian citizen Yuriy Denisov as another organizer of Tatarsky's murder.

Ukrainian officials have described the St. Petersburg cafe bomb blast as an act of "domestic terrorism."

A Russian court on Thursday [extended](#) Trepova's pre-trial arrest at Moscow's notorious Lefortovo prison until Sept. 2.

The National Bolshevik Party is banned in Russia.

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