

Nadezhdin's Far East Campaign Head Jailed for 'LGBT Propaganda' in Hacked Private Chat

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A court in Russia's Far East city of Vladivostok has arrested ex-presidential hopeful Boris Nadezhdin's local campaign head for "LGBT propaganda," the independent news outlet Mediazona <u>reported</u> Wednesday.

Igor Krasnov was ordered to six days of arrest on charges of "displaying extremist symbols," Mediazona reported, citing his friends.

Russia's Supreme Court outlawed the "international LGBT movement," a group that does not formally exist, labeling it an "extremist" group.

The charges against Krasnov stem from his posting an image of a rainbow flag in the Vladivostok campaign headquarters' closed Telegram chat which was <u>hacked</u> by security forces, the OVD-Info rights group reported.

The chat reportedly consisted of 12 people.

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Nadezhdin's Vladivostok headquarters <u>said</u> earlier Wednesday that three of its members — Krasnov, Daniil Laptev, and Anastasia Konkova — were "taken away by unknown people in civilian clothes."

Laptev and Konkova's whereabouts are <u>unknown</u>.

Another volunteer for Nadezhdin's Vladivostok headquarters, Vladislav Spirenkov, was also arrested for six days for "displaying prohibited symbols," OVD-Info <u>reported</u>.

A number of Russians have been charged with displaying or <u>wearing</u> "extremist symbols" since the Supreme Court's ban on the LGBTQ+ movement in November 2023.

Pro-peace presidential hopeful Nadezhdin, who was seen as a rare challenge to President Vladimir Putin in this month's tightly controlled election, was barred from the ballot over alleged errors in his endorsement signatures.

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