

# Moscow Police Arrest U.S. Citizen for Allegedly Assaulting Officer

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Law enforcement authorities in Moscow arrested a U.S. citizen for allegedly assaulting a police officer, state media [reported](#) Thursday, citing investigators.

The American, later identified as Joseph Tater, was approached by police on Monday night after he tried to check into a hotel without a Russian migration card — a document issued to foreign citizens when they enter the country.

“The suspect refused to provide identity documents, after which he used force against a law enforcement officer,” an Investigative Committee spokeswoman was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Tater was said to have “hit a [police] employee on the forearm, pushed her,” according to an unnamed source [quoted](#) by Interfax.

Police said the American was charged with assaulting an officer, a criminal offense that

carries a sentence of up to five years in prison if found guilty.

A Moscow court later on Thursday [ordered](#) Tater to be placed in pre-trial detention on administrative charges of hooliganism.

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow [told](#) the RTVI broadcaster that it was aware of the American's arrest but said it could not provide any further comments.

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