



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Aug 31, 2023 · 21 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1697162353207394605](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a Russian-Norwegian mercenary, Yan Petrovsky AKA Voislav Torden AKA "Slavyan". He's best-known as the co-founder of the Rusich Group, for committing war crimes in Ukraine, and for trying to start a normal life after in Northern Europe.

1/20



Petrovsky lived his childhood in St. Petersburg, but moved to Norway in 2004 when his mother married a Norwegian. After graduating from university, he started working at the "True Metal Tattoo" tattoo parlor, a shop famous for its connections to many neo-Nazi organizations.

2/20



In 2010, the tattoo parlor was raided by the police. During the search, they found forged documents and weapons that belonged to another Russian neo-Nazi, Viacheslav Datsik. Petrovsky spent one month in custody, after which he was released due to lack of evidence.

3/20

From a tattoo-studio to Donetsk

After graduating from university, Petrovsky started working in the Oslo tattoo studio “True Metal Tattoo”. John Færset, Norwegian freelance journalist and researcher of radical movements, told “Meduza” that the studio “was regarded to be the meeting place for a small group of armed eastern European neo-Nazis”. In September 2010, the police raided the tattoo shop and discovered illegal weapons, military equipment, and fake documents. Petrovsky and his colleagues were subsequently arrested. The investigation uncovered that the weapons belonged to Russian neo-Nazi Vyacheslav Datsik, who had just escaped from a psychiatric clinic in St. Petersburg. Datsik, who was acquainted with the owner of the tattoo studio, had fled to Norway asking for political asylum. (Eventually he was extradited to Russia and remained in prison until March 2016. He is currently in custody after a new criminal case was opened against him). After one month spent in custody, Petrovsky was eventually released given that, according to his words, there was no evidence against him. Since then, life in Norway became increasingly complicated. Customers of “True Metal Tattoo” were scared off by media coverage of the studio. “Journalists started publishing a lot of negative material about me, writing that I am a neo-Nazi, a racist and a terrorist. The radical leftists based in Oslo started vandalizing our studio, breaking windows, a kind of paltry action”.



In 2011, he met another notorious neo-Nazi, Alexey Milchakov, at a paramilitary training camp of the Russian Imperial Movement (RIM). RIM has trained far-right militias around Europe and it's designed as a terrorist group by both Canada and the US:



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Another prominent but not so well-known Russian, ultra-nationalist organization is the Russian Imperial Movement (RIM). The group promotes "political orthodoxy" and are in a symbiotic state with the Kremlin: as long as they don't commit domestic terrorism, ...

16/24



11:35 AM · Jul 25, 2023



 920  Reply  Copy link

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In Jun 2014, Petrovsky and Milchakov found the Rusich Group, a neo-Nazi paramilitary group, which was quickly sent to fight against the Ukrainian army in Donbas, Ukraine.

More about Milchakov here:

5/20



Not found

https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1589145838869434370



The group took part in the ambush of the Ukrainian Aidar Battalion in Sep 2014. Rusich later published a video of Aidar's leader, Ivan Issyk. Rusich members had carved a neo-Nazi symbol kolovrat to his cheek. Few days later, he was interviewed by pro-Russian propagandist...

6/20



Rusich first gained attention following the publication of a video filmed in the aftermath of an ambush on a Ukrainian convoy near the Luhansk village of Metallist in September 2014. The footage shows members of the unit in combat interrogating an injured Ukrainian service member.¹⁴⁵ His captors had carved a *kolovrat* onto his cheek. Five days after the ambush, Graham Phillips, a now-sanctioned, British, pro-Russian propagandist, filmed an "interview" with the service member, who was unrecognizably burned from head to toe. Evidently, Rusich had doused him with fuel and set him alight after taking him prisoner.

Speaking in 2019 to the Belarusian independent TV channel Belsat, the victim's parents confirmed that the man in both videos was their son, Ivan Issyk.¹⁴⁶ According to the Belsat documentary, armed men abducted Issyk from a hospital in occupied Luhansk several days after the "interview" with Phillips. They killed him. Issyk's body was returned to his family the following month. His father reported that Issyk's internal organs had been cut out and replaced in his body, and blue and yellow fabric had been stuffed into his mouth.

..Graham Phillips. At this point, Issyk's body was covered in burns & he clearly violated journalistic ethics by "interviewing" a seriously wounded prisoner. Issyk was later abducted from the hospital & murdered, after which his organs were cut off and shuffled in his body.

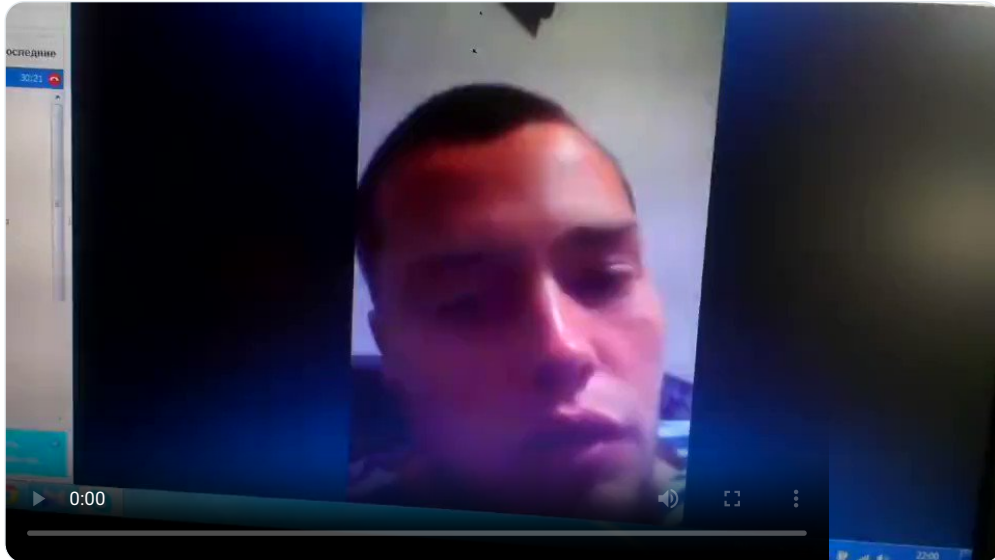
The Ukrainian soldiers who survived the attack were filmed by the militants and UK citizen **Graham Phillips** who worked for the Kremlin mouthpiece Russia Today. The first recordings clearly show that Ivan was still able to walk. However, five days later, when Phillips was interviewing him in a hospital in Luhansk, the man had burns covering over 70 percent of his body. A few days after the interview, Isyk was kidnapped from the hospital; his lacerated body was given back to his family only after a month.

His parents and Ukrainian investigators believe that the severe burns were the result of torturing, but according to the death certificate issued by the so-called Luhansk republic, the man died of stomach ulcer in hospital. The autopsy conducted by Ukrainian doctors showed that his internal organs were cut out and then put back into his body. A piece of the Ukrainian flag was found in his throat; fragments of the brain – in his stomach.

“I cannot even imagine what my child had to get through before he died. The only thing that matters to me is punishing the perpetrators. Moreover, those who were aware of tortures, but still interviewed him, should be stripped of the right to journalise. I believe that Poland will help us make the son’s story public,” Ivan’s father **Vasyl Isyk** said during a meeting at the Polish Embassy in Kyiv in late January.

Ivan’s parents are set to draw the International Criminal Court’s attention to the case. They blame the Russian state for the death of their son. They are also seeking the international condemnation of Phillips’ breaking journalistic ethics. The British blogger is infamous for aggressively ‘interviewing’ seriously wounded and intimidated Ukrainian soldiers.

In 2015, Rusich left the Donbas and Petrovsky returned to Norway. In a video recorded in the same year, both Milchakov and Petrovsky admit to killing Ukrainian prisoners. He allegedly killed 6 Ukrainian prisoners of war who were captured in the battle near Luhansk in 2014.



In 2016, he was arrested at the home of a leading Nordic Resistance Movement (also trained by the Russian Imperial Movement) member Ronny Bårdsen in Norway for violating immigration laws and was deported. Norwegian authorities called him a "threat to the national security".

9/20



"Burn your local mosque": Well-known neo-Nazi sells hatred of Jews and Muslims in his own online store

Harald S. Klungtveit · 31 August 2018 19.08



The well-known neo-Nazi **Ronny Bårdsen** (36), who is active in "The Nordic Resistance Movement" (DNM), has for a long time produced, marketed and sold t-shirts and other effects with messages that are popular among right-wing extremists in Norway and neighboring countries. Although a number of the public statements are probably in violation of Section 185 of the Criminal Code on discriminatory or hate speech, the police currently have no plans to crack down on the sole proprietorship in Kristiansand.

- **UPDATE:** *The online store was shut down on Saturday - apparently by the supplier who hosted the website. (Filter Nyheter has not been in contact with the company.)*

Bårdsen has already been charged with hate speech in another case together with neo-Nazis Tommy Olsen and Jan Christopher Pedersen in DNM, after banners with swastikas and the text "We are back" were hung in several places in Kristiansand on the night of 9 April in year. Agder police district informs Filter Nyheter that the police want this unique swastika case to be dealt with in the legal system before it becomes relevant to assess Bårdsen's online store against



The article is more than 3 years old

Wednesday's papers: Neo-nazi training, employment discrimination, fighting swans

Finland's press reports on a Russian paramilitary training camp, men-only job listings and an authentic version of Swan Lake.



File photo of Nordic Resistance Movement march in Turku, Finland taken in August 2018. Image: Yle News / Lydia Taylerson

He returned to Russia, where he trained Belarusian children combat skills, including proficiency in knife-fighting, tactics, hand-to-hand combat, and shooting.

According to Ukrainian authorities, Petrovsky also later took part in some traditional "viking ritual".

SOCIETY

05/16/2016 / 11:20

Bel/ Lac/ Rus

Belarusian schoolchildren sent to Russia to training camps led by neo-Nazis 117

Individual Orthodox priests have become involved in dubious activity. The Vitebsk organization of Belarusian Afghans "Brotherhood" was also involved.

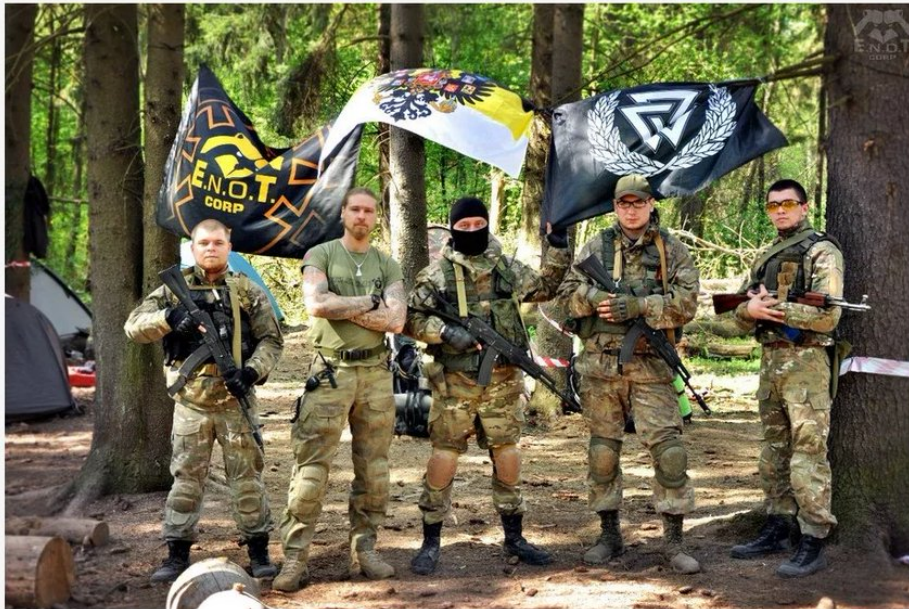
Any war attracts sadists. The conflict in Donbas was no exception. Among others, a certain Aleksey Milchakov from St. Petersburg, the commander of the so-called Rusich subversive group, who fought for the DPR, was noted there. Photos of Ukrainian soldiers with swastikas carved into their faces and ears cut off appeared on his social media pages.

Imagine our surprise when we received photographs of Milchakov conducting classes with Belarusian schoolchildren at a summer camp in Russia.



Alexei Milchakov with a machine gun is in the center.

This man became famous back in 2012, when, under the flag of the Third Reich, he cut off the heads of dogs, carefully capturing the whole process in a photo.



Friends even take photos for their Instagram in the same places and poses.



During 2016, ICC completed their preliminary investigation and opened a criminal case against Milchakov & Petrovsky for their war crimes and "participation in terrorist organization" on Ukrainian soil. In 2022, they were also sanctioned by the US for their "special cruelty".

In November of 2016, the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague completed a preliminary investigation into the events that took place in Crimea and Ukraine since November 2013. The investigation is based on a report that identifies Yan's armed group, "Rusich", as responsible for war crimes. On November 21, the Prosecutor General of Ukraine opened a criminal case against Yan Petrovsky and his commander Aleksey Milchakov, both suspected of "participation in terrorist organization" on Ukrainian soil. Petrovsky rejects all these allegations. "I never committed any war crime, I was protecting Russian people, [...] exclusively taking part in military actions". Regardless of whether they are innocent or guilty, Yan and his comrades are very unlikely to face international prosecution as long as they are on Russian territory. In November 2016 Russia refused to ratify the ICC Statute preventing the International Criminal Court to prosecute its citizens.

The screenshot shows a webpage from TRM Insights. The header includes the TRM logo and the text "CHOOSE YOUR INDUSTRY". Below the header, the article title "Who is Task Force Rusich – the ‘neo-Nazi paramilitary group’ sanctioned by OFAC yesterday?" is displayed in white text on a dark blue background. The article content is on a white background and discusses OFAC's recent designations, including Task Force Rusich. It lists five cryptocurrency addresses associated with the group.

INSIGHTS | SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

Who is Task Force Rusich – the ‘neo-Nazi paramilitary group’ sanctioned by OFAC yesterday?

TRM Insights > Insights

It's been a busy week for U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), who on Tuesday, September 14, issued a round of cyber- and Iran-related updates that included cryptocurrency addresses linked to individuals affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). And just yesterday, additional designations were announced, this time targeting individuals and entities for their "involvement in Russia's invasion of Ukraine" and Russia's attempt to find new ways to "process payments and conduct transactions."

One of the entities designated in yesterday's announcement is **Task Force Rusich**, which is described by OFAC as a "neo-Nazi paramilitary group that has participated in combat alongside Russia's military in Ukraine." OFAC also added individuals affiliated with the group - "two of its senior leaders" - and five cryptocurrency addresses linked to the group to its SDN list:

- bc1qj7dlyh8xz6tpqk92vztrhgh88dmjvcwrmsmerrm
- bc1q2lpgjnt348pfxvhy33ehmdzy3gmx8w4052z6
- 0xc2a3829f459b3Ed87791c74cD45402BA0a20Be3
- 0x3AD9dB589d201A710Ed237c829c7860Ba86510Fc
- TX5GV4DyfxNB3fPkzZJhmQ21eVml4rEqG

Ukrainian Myrotvoretz has also suggested that Petrovsky was fighting in Syria in 2017. Based on this report, he fought under a Russian unit that was led by a Norwegian.

He allegedly fought again in Ukraine in 2022, this time in the ranks of PMC Wagner.



On 20 Jul 2023, he was arrested by the Finnish police in the Helsinki-Vantaa airport, shortly before their flight to Nice, France. Earlier, Finnish authorities had given Petrovsky a residence permit under his new name, Voislav Torden. His wife had been accepted to study...



News | Russia-Ukraine war

Russian held in Finland said to be key figure in far-right Wagner affiliate

Suspect Yan Petrovsky is said to be a fighter in the Wagner-associated 'Rusich' – the Sabotage Assault Reconnaissance Group.



A masked man dressed in a military uniform stands at an informal memorial on August 24, 2023, in Saint Petersburg, Russia, for Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin, who reportedly died in a plane crash on August 23, 2023 [File: Anton Matrosov/EPA]

26 Aug 2023



An alleged member of an extreme right-wing military [sub-unit of the Wagner mercenary force](#) has been arrested in Finland on charges of participation in a “terrorist group”, following a request from Ukraine, according to reports.

A detention hearing was scheduled to take place on Friday in a district court near Helsinki, according to Finnish public broadcaster Yle. Finnish police are requesting that the 36-year-old Russian national, identified as Yan Petrovsky, be detained in preparation for his extradition.

..in a Finnish polytechnic university. This also allowed Yan & their three kids to get the permit for one year. According to Petrovsky's lawyer, he wanted his children to "obtain Nordic education", and they were going to visit their relatives in France before settling down.

Finland apprehends Russian man suspected of Ukraine terrorism

Finnish police want to keep the suspect remanded in custody, according to Finnish news agency STT.



Image: Lucas Ekblad / Yle

YLE NEWS, STT

25.8 11:59

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On Friday the Eastern Uusimaa District Court is hearing the case of a Russian man apprehended in Finland who is suspected of committing terrorism offences in Ukraine, Finnish news agency STT has reported.

The police are demanding that the suspect continue to be remanded in their custody, arguing that this would facilitate an extradition investigation.

Public court records indicate that the 36-year-old man is suspected of participating in and supporting the activities of a terrorist group.

The alleged crimes took place between June 2014 and August 2015 in Ukraine's Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

Wagner-connected TG channel "Grey Zone" has complained about the arrest of Petrovsky, and they claimed that he was "abducted by the NATO special forces". They also organized a crowdfunding effort for Petrovsky's legal fund, which was accompanied with a message from his wife.



Volk

@Steadyhand44

Deputy Commander of the DShRG Rusich Slavyan (aka Torden Voislav Igorevich in his passport, also known as Yan Igorevich Petrovsky) is in prison in Finland.

СВОБОДУ РУССКОМУ ВОИНУ!

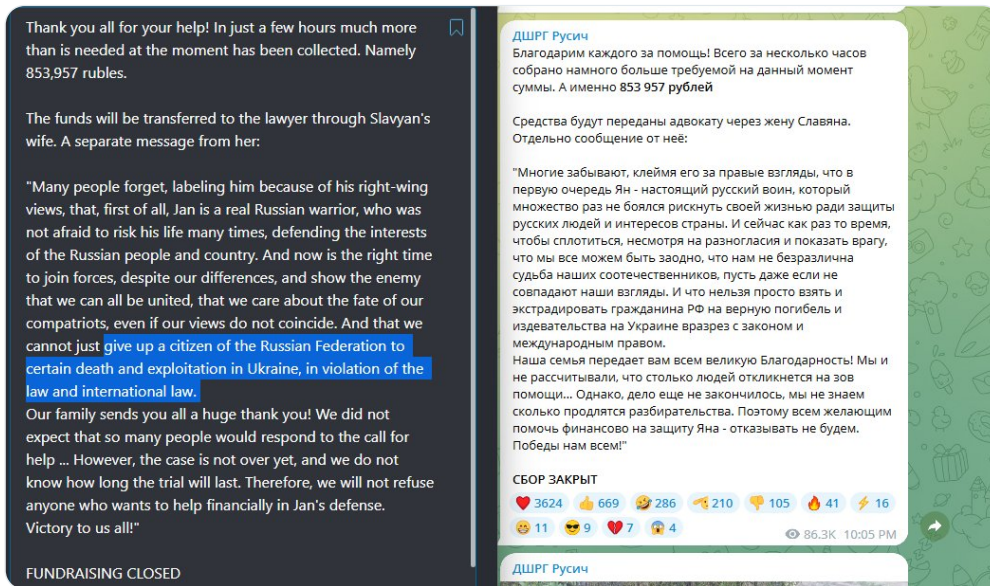
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Ironically, the group that's responsible for torture, abductions and other war crimes and has called for the genocide of Ukrainian people, are suddenly interested in international law.

16/



I have previously written about the "Kremlin kids", the wealthy children who live a glamorous life in Europe and in the US while their parents threaten these countries with nuclear weapons on Russian media:

17/20



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In today's #vatnik soup I'll talk about children, and especially the children of the Russian propagandists and politicians. It seems that the Kremlin-elite doesn't want to send their children to fight in Ukraine, but rather provide them with Western luxuries and education.

1/18



1:38 PM · Mar 1, 2023



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It seems Petrovsky and his wife are no exceptions in this sense: the former committed war crimes and killed Ukrainians en masse, and now they want the "Nordic education" for themselves and for their children. He even plans to apply for asylum in Finland.

18/20


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Criminal suspicions

Russian man suspected of terrorist crimes plans to apply for asylum in Finland - still in custody

The District Court of Eastern Uusimaa decided to continue the detention of the Russian man. A 36-year-old man is suspected of terrorist crimes in eastern Ukraine.



The 36-year-old man hid from filming behind the door frames of the hall. He participated in the session remotely from Vantaa prison.

AUTHORS ▾

25.8. 13:26 · Updated on 28.8. 13:21 [Ice](#)

The district court of Eastern Uusimaa discussed today the detention of a Russian man suspected of terrorist crimes in eastern Ukraine.

The district court decided to continue the man's detention. He remains in Vantaa prison for the time being.

The session was held in secret. Both Central Criminal Police's crime inspector **Kimmo Huhta-aho** and the suspect participated in the session remotely.

According to the district court's information, the suspect **Voislav Torden** was born in 1987 in Leningrad, i.e. present-day St. Petersburg. His former name is **Jan Igorevich Petrovskiy**.

These people want the "best" of both worlds - they want to keep their xenophobic, "traditional" Russkij Mir world view, but they also want the culture and comfort of the West.

And at the moment, it seems that they're getting it.

 **Pekka Kallioniemi** 
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In today's #vatnik soup I'll talk about the "fifth column": a group of people who undermine and sabotage a nation or a group from within, usually in favor of a another nation or a group. Their activities often include sabotage, disinfo & propaganda, espionage, and terrorism.
1/19



10:25 AM · Jan 9, 2023 

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There's plenty of evidence for Petrovsky's war crimes in Ukraine, and we even have a video recording where he admits this.

For these alleged crimes, he should be extradited to Ukraine and treated fairly as a prisoner of war.

MH17

Ukraine prepares extradition of Russian militant detained in Finland

EUROPEAN PRAVDA — FRIDAY, 25 AUGUST 2023, 19:39



841

RECENT NEWS

10:20

Ukraine's Foreign Minister visits Spain: discussion on EU accession and military aid

09:52

Russia forced to step up air defences at airbases amid latest drone attack – UK Intelligence

09:29

Ukrainian forces advance and gain ground near Novopokopivka, Zaporizhzhia Oblast

09:26

Invaders shell Sloviansk and Borova in Kharkiv Oblast, killing one and wounding another

08:09

Ukraine's Defence Minister to be removed from post soon

07:54

Ukrainian defenders kill 610 Russian soldiers and destroy 13 tanks in one day

07:40

Moscow Mayor claims drone downed in Moscow Oblast

07:26

Special Operations Forces hit

Ukraine's Office of the Prosecutor General is preparing extradition files for one of the leaders of the Russian paramilitary group Rusich, Yan Petrovsky, whose detention in Finland was reported earlier.

Source: [Ukraine's Office of the Prosecutor General](#), as reported by European Pravda

Details: The Russian is under investigation by the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) "on suspicion of participation in a terrorist organisation". The investigation suggests that in 2014, Petrovsky together with the Russian-backed terrorists from the "Luhansk People's Republic" fought against Ukraine as part of the Rusich Sabotage and Assault Reconnaissance Group.

"Within the framework of cooperation with Europol, the Prosecutor General's Office obtained a report on the detention of this person in Helsinki by the Migration Service of the Republic of Finland, as well as information about the prospect of his deportation to Russia," the prosecutor's office explained.

Therefore, Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office sent a request to the Finnish law enforcement agencies on 15 August to detain and temporarily arrest the person. This happened on Wednesday, 23 August.

"The initiator of the investigation is currently preparing the materials necessary for the extradition of the person," the agency said, adding that the pre-trial investigation is under procedural guidance of the Luhansk Oblast Prosecutor's Office.

Thank you to @LauraHuu for helping me with this soup.

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#vatniksoup is a Twitter thread series (and a hashtag!) where I'll introduce pro-Russian actors and propagandists from around the world, be they so-called "independent journalists", politicians, mili...

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