

Russian Alpinists Dead

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The  **Moscow Times**

The Russian couple that tried to ascend the French mountain Mont Blanc days before the New Year was found dead Tuesday, RIA-Novosti reported.

Tatyana and Mikhail Zakharov were last seen when they started a climb to the highest peak in the Alps on Dec. 29. Their relatives alerted rescuers when the couple did not return home on Jan. 6 as planned.

"They were found on the ascent route. ... The weather was very bad and their tent was swamped with snow," a local police spokesperson told the agency.

A police spokesman had earlier said that the weather conditions were not favorable for ascending that day, and that the two Russians were the only climbers who dared to attempt the climb.

(MT)

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